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NEARBY



Centre's nod for NIA probe
into Tarn Taran blast case

CHANDIGARH
The Central government on Friday accepted Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's recommendation to hand over the Tarn Taran blast case to the National Investigation Agency, in view of its national and international ramifications and suspected links of the accused with the Pakistan-backed Sikhs for Justice. A communiqué to this effect has been received by the Chief Secretary and DGP, Punjab, according to an official spokesperson.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 5

FREE WORKSHOP
HOW TO CRACK UPSC 2020
21st Sept - 5:30 PM
(Saturday)
22nd Sept - 11:00 AM
(Sunday)
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Clean-up call



Seeking immediate action: Extinction Rebellion activists staging a protest in Berlin, Germany, on Friday to demand urgent action to avert an environmental catastrophe. Thousands marched worldwide as part of a strike, inspired by Swedish activist Greta Thunberg. ■REUTERS

Draft rules to regulate social media ready: govt.

May be notified soon, Madras HC told

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.
CHENNAI

The Centre on Friday informed the Madras High Court that deliberations on the Draft Information Technology [Intermediaries Guidelines (Amendment)] Rules, 2018, which mandate social media companies to cooperate with the police in cracking cybercrimes, had been completed.

A Division Bench of Justices M. Sathyaranayanan and N. Seshasayee was told by the Central government's senior counsel Venkataswamy Babu that the process of notifying the rules was in an

J&K court panel to probe charges of illegal detention of children

Supreme Court says petition raises 'substantial issues'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday assigned the Jammu and Kashmir High Court's Juvenile Justice Committee the task of inquiring into the allegations of illegal detention of children – some as young as 10 – by security forces.

The State is undergoing a period of lockdown following the reading down of Article 370.

A three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, said it would not make any comment on the allegations for now. However, it

said the petition filed by child rights activists Enakshi Ganguly and Shanta Sinha raised "substantial issues and alleged detention of children".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta objected to the issuance of notice or mention in the order of "detention of children", saying this would have huge and wide repercussions. However, the court did not concede the request and maintained that the panel initiate an inquiry.

At the previous hearing, the court asked the Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir

High Court to file a report on a statement by the petitioners' lawyer and senior advocate Huzeifa Ahmad that it was next to impossible to access the High Court because of the lockdown.

The CJI said the report filed by the Chief Justice did not support his statement. "But we have conflicting reports too. However, since the issue is about the alleged detention of children, we will ask the High Court's Juvenile Justice Committee to inquire," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Two-year-old killed as ambulance rams truck

Attendant also succumbs to injuries



The ambulance which hit a truck on the DND flyway on Friday. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

A two-year-old boy on ventilator support and a nursing attendant were killed when the ambulance rammed a truck from behind on the DND flyway in the early hours of Friday.

Family members of the deceased child, Subhash – father Suresh Pal, mother Manno Devi and four-year-old brother Shubham – were grievously injured in the accident and are undergoing treatment at the AIIMS Trauma Centre. The ambulance driver, Vipin, is also admitted there, the police said.

"After taking consent, we have users' HUMS, Kessler measures to identify who is at high risk. We are now analysing data. Also, we know that music is beneficial in many ways. But you have to know how to regulate it if you are high risk. This is an ongoing work," Prof. Alluri said.

The researchers also used machine learning to predict

SC modifies recommendation on Kureshi

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court Collegium has modified its May 10 recommendation to appoint Justice A.A. Kureshi as the Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh, after the government sent two consecutive letters asking it to reconsider the proposal.

In a resolution dated September 5 and published on Friday, the Collegium led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, has now recommended the appointment of Justice Kureshi as the Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court. Justice Kureshi is the senior most judge of the Gujarat High Court.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 9

Talks fail, U.P. farmers to march to Delhi

ANUJ KUMAR
NOIDA
Hundreds of farmers will march to Kisan Ghat in Delhi on Saturday after talks between members of the Bhartiya Kisan Sangathan and representatives of the Agriculture Ministry failed in Noida.

Holding the BJP government at the Centre and the State responsible for the poor state of the farm sector, the BKS had made 15 demands.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 5

Not all is music to our ears, say researchers

Team in IIIT, Hyderabad, tracks listening patterns as an indicator of mental health

SYED MOHAMMED
HYDERABAD

What does it mean to 'hide' behind music? What could listening to music on loop indicate if it makes the listener feel worse? And could the answers to these questions be connected to mental health?

A team of music psychology researchers from the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Hyderabad, has been working on music listening patterns as indicators of



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

comprising students Rajat Agarwal and Ravinder Singh, interacted with 300 respondents, including young adults and workers in the IT sector, as a part of the project.

The team used the 'Healthy and Unhealthy Music Scale' (HUMS), which asks respondents 13 questions on their engagement with music.

"Music helps me to relax" is a 'healthy association'. There are five such 'healthy associations' and eight are 'unhealthy associations'.

was found that the higher the respondents score on the 'unhealthy' items, the higher they score on the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (if one's score is above a threshold, the higher the risk of developing mental health issues)," Prof. Alluri said.

However, she was quick to clarify that this does not mean that music is bad for the listener. On the contrary, how one uses music indicates one's current mental state.

The researchers also used machine learning to predict

where respondents stand on the Kessler scale. Data was collected from a music streaming service which allows mining of information on what artiste or artistes the user listens to and when, over a period of time.

"After taking consent, we have users' HUMS, Kessler measures to identify who is at high risk. We are now analysing data. Also, we know that music is beneficial in many ways. But you have to know how to regulate it if you are high risk. This is an ongoing work," Prof. Alluri said.

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The researchers also used machine learning to predict

SOL to hold classes in double shifts

Students have been protesting against 'mismanagement' since three weeks

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

Delhi University's School of Open Learning (SOL), which has been facing shortage of classrooms and other issues after switching to semester mode of education, hopes to carry out all classes on Saturday, three weeks after the academic session started, a senior official told *The Hindu*.

"We have only been able to carry out 60% of classes so far," said Professor Ramesh Bhardwaj, Officer on Special Duty at SOL. As opposed to previous years, when only 10-20% of students attended classes, about 30-40% stu-

We don't mind the CBCS system being implemented, but the administration is clearly not prepared for it

AARTI KUSHWASA
SOL student

dents were attending in 2019, making the situation difficult for the administration, he claimed.

SOL offers correspondence courses and attendance in classes is not compulsory. While regular courses in DU have about 1.5 lakh students, SOL has many more, Prof. Bhardwaj said. He also said

that a change in the system from an annual mode to a semester mode had caused difficulties. While under the annual mode, classes would have begun in October or November, the semester mode, adopted by the SOL this year, has pushed the timeline forward, he said.

For the first time, the students of SOL will be studying under the Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS), meant to bring their courses on par with regular curriculum.

The students, however, are unhappy. For the last three weeks, spontaneous protests are being staged by students

with classes being cancelled in the last minute, forcing thousands of them to return home.

Aarti Kushwasa, a first-year B.A. student at SOL, said: "We don't mind the CBCS system being implemented, but they [administration] are clearly not prepared for it," she said. Exam dates have also been announced for the first week of November, she said, adding that without classes and adequate study material, students were bound to fail.

To tackle such issues, the administration will be holding classes in double shifts, Prof. Bhardwaj said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to all the encroachers on government land in Satbari Village, District South Delhi that the demarcation of entire Southern Ridge in 13 villages of District South was carried out by TSM and DGPS on the directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in the OA. No. 58/2013.

The survey of entire forest and Gaon Sabha land in Village Satbari is carried out through TSM and DGPS and survey maps with encroachment detail are verified and uploaded on the web page of Deputy Commissioner South for public information. In the demarcation report it is found that the encroachers have encroached upon the Forest and Gaon Sabha land in Satbari Village.

Notice dated 09.09.2019 in F. No. SDM (Saket)/GS/Forest/2019/1900 has been issued to all the encroachers (Khasra Nos. wise) on the Forest and Gaon Sabha land in Satbari Village to remove their illegal encroachment on the Government land themselves. However, it is found that encroachments have not been removed till date from the Government lands. The encroachments are found in following (Khasra Nos.) of Satbari village.

Encroached Forest and Gram Sabha Lands: Khasra Nos. 464(23-5), 565(10-16), 639(4-4), 696(12-3), 740(30-1), 756(13-1), 822(10-4), 899(64-3), 923(1-9), 947(2-6), 977(10-1), 978(9-19), 983(7-16), 999(8-16), 1007(4-10), 1076(5-9), 1080(11-11), 1091(9-15), 1092(1-10), 1099(120-0), 1113(4-16), 1114(1-10) & 1127(99-12).

All the encroachers on Forest, Gaon Sabha and other government lands are hereby advised to remove their illegal encroachments of any kind on the Government land, themselves within 07 days from the issuance of this notice otherwise the action for removal of encroachment shall be initiated by the District Task Force (District South) and the cost of the demolition/encroachment removal drive shall be recovered from the encroachers.

The residents of Satbari Village may visit the web page www.dcsouth.delhigovt.nic.in and verify their land status from the survey map uploaded there. Further, the residents may verify status of their land from office of the District Magistrate (South) and they may contact on 011-29535190 for any assistance in this regard.

DR. B. M. MISHRA, IAS
DISTRICT MAGISTRATE (SOUTH)
GNCT OF DELHI

DIP/Shabdarth/0696/19-20

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to all the encroachers on government land in Neb Sarai Village, District South Delhi that the demarcation of entire Southern Ridge in 13 villages of District South was carried out by TSM and DGPS on the directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in the OA. No. 58/2013.

The survey of entire forest and Gaon Sabha land in Vilalge Neb Sarai is carried out through TSM and DGPS and survey maps with encroachment detail are verified and uploaded on the web page of Deputy Commissioner South for public information. In the demarcation report it is found that the encroachers have encroached upon the Forest and Gaon Sabha land in Neb Sarai Village.

Notice dated 09.09.2019 in F. No. SDM(Saket)/GS/Forest/2019/1901 has been issued to all the encroachers (Khasra Nos. wise) on the Forest and Gaon Sabha land in Neb Sarai Village to remove their illegal encroachment on the Government land themselves. However, it is found that encroachments have not been removed till date from the Government lands. The encroachments are found in following (Khasra Nos.) of Neb Sarai village.

Encroached Forest and Gram Sabha Lands: Khasra Nos. 7(4-16), 8(4-16), 15(4-16), 16(4-16), 24(4-16), 25(4-16), 26(6-8), 27(6-18), 28(4-16), 29(2-17), 30 (5-0), 31 (3-5), 32(4-16), 33(4-16), 34(4-06), 36(4-16), 37(4-16), 39(4-16), 39(4-16), 40(4-16), 41(4-16), 42(3-19), 43 (3-19), 44 (4-16), 52(4-8), 63(1-19), 64(4-16), 77(3-10), 82(3-0), 83(4-14), 84(4-04), 85(3-17), 94(1-06), 96(4-08), 134(1-18), 135 (4-16), 136 (4-16), 137(3-1), 138(4-2), 139(5-2), 140(3-6), 170(2-1-01), 173(0-14), 263(1-100), 311(3-0-17), 362(0-14), 435(15-05), 436(1-09), 437(3-18), 439(4-03), 440(5-10), 441(2-9), 443(1-16), 444(1-18), 445(3-01), 446(5-4), 447(6-10), 448(3-07), 449(4-16), 450(1-03), 450/2(3-16), 451(3-09), 452(4-14), 456(4-8), 457(3-16), 458(4-16), 459(3-12), 460(3-12), 477(3-06), 480(4-16), 482(3-18), 483(4-16), 485(4-16), 486(3-19), 487(4-16), 488(4-16), 491(2-0), 493(3-11), 494(4-13), 495(5-07), 501(4-16), 507(4-16), 516(12-9), 532(34-11), 533(8-18), 534(1-15), 546(1-01), 634(29-3) & 649(4-4).

All the encroachers on Forest, Gaon sabha and other government lands are hereby advised to remove their illegal encroachments of any kind on the Government land, themselves within 07 days from the issuance of this notice otherwise the action for removal of encroachment shall be initiated by the District Task Force (District South) and the cost of demolition / encorachment removal drive shall be recovered from the encroachers.

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DR. B. M. MISHRA, IAS
DISTRICT MAGISTRATE (SOUTH)
GNCT OF DELHI

DIP/Shabdarth/0696/19-20

DMRC to operate Rapid Metro from October 16, says court

Current operators to run the service till that time

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Friday directed the Rapid Metro Rail Gurgaon Limited (RMGL) and Rapid MetroRail Gurgaon South Limited (RMGSL) to operate the Rapid Metro till October 16.

Senior advocate Chetan Mittal told *The Hindu* that the division Bench of Justice Rakesh Kumar Jain and Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi, while disposing writ petitions pertaining to the Gurugram Rapid Metro, directed that the RMGL and the RMGSL shall

handover the operations and maintenance along with control and possession of both the metro lines to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (DMRC) as Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation Limited (HMRTC) - Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) had already entered into an agreement with DMRC on September 16 for operation and maintenance of the metro lines for five years," said Mr. Mittal, counsel for petitioner HMRTC.

Mr. Mittal added that the court also directed that the handover shall take place under the supervision of two retired judges of the High Court, which include Justice

"During this period,

DELHI TODAY

Exhibition: "Man Mai Hain Dilli", an exhibition of watercolours by Krishnendu Chatterjee at Delhi 'o' Delhi Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Beyond Canvases", a solo painting exhibition by Renu Vidyarthi at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Rumination of An Unfettered Mind", a solo show by Laxmi Gupta at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at citeditor@delhi@thehindu.co.in)

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	90	Gurugram	48
Ghaziabad	90	Faridabad	45
Greater Noida	100	Noida	72
Good	Satisfactory	Moderate	Poor
0-50	51-100	101-200	201-300 301-400 >401
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB			

NGT forms panel to probe 'illegal activities' of builder

Firm discharging untreated sewage: plea

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging illegal extraction of groundwater and discharge of untreated sewage by a builder in Noida, the National Green Tribunal on Friday constituted a committee to look into the plea and furnish a report on the same.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel constituted the committee comprising representatives from Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board and Gautam Buddha Nagar District Magistrate.

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea, moved by the residents of Antriksh Kanball in Noida Sector 77, alleging illegal extraction of groundwater, discharge of

sewage water in the green belt and non-operation of rainwater harvesting systems by Perfect Probuild Private Ltd., the builder.

The petition also alleged that the builder had failed to secure water connection from the Noida authority and supplied water in the apartments from two illegal borewells located in the partially constructed basement of the residential society.

Smoke from generators
"The smoke generated from the diesel generator sets, in the absence of chimneys, directly enter the houses and they [residents] are exposed to the obnoxious air almost on a daily basis," the plea also said.

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PUNCHKUJIAN ROAD	Garwal Bhawan, Opp. Metro Pillar 44, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chakkar)
WAZIPUR	A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
JANAKPURI	B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543, Adj. Umang Palace.
NOIDA	Nirula's Sec-2, C-135, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
LAJPAT NAGAR	49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand, Crossing, Delhi

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TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

DP/9/54/19

IN BRIEF



Maliwal alleges threat from spa owners

NEW DELHI
DCW chief Swati Maliwal on Friday wrote to Commissioner of Police Amulya Patnaik over alleged threats she has received from spa centre owners. She claimed she was threatened following the action taken by the DCW on spa centres which are allegedly running prostitution rackets.

Maken accuses AAP of ruining health sector

NEW DELHI
Former Union Minister Ajay Maken on Friday led a protest outside Maharishi Balmiki Hospital at Pooth Khurd here and alleged that the AAP-led Delhi government had ruined the health sector in the Capital. He said that the government was trying to mislead people by saying it had developed the sector, while in reality, it did not.

Anti-dengue drive: CM inspects his chamber

NEW DELHI
CM Arvind Kejriwal on Friday inspected his chamber at the Delhi Secretariat as part of the '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute' campaign and replaced stagnant clean water in the flower pots so as to prevent breeding of dengue mosquitoes, the government said in a statement.

Ad hoc committees formed in civic bodies

NEW DELHI
Chairpersons and vice-chairpersons to the various ad hoc committees of all three municipal corporations have been appointed with elections having been carried out in the last two weeks. The Delhi Municipal Corporations Act provides for the formation of as many committees as it sees fit. These bodies are meant to make recommendations with regard to schemes under the respective heads and other expenditures the corporation may incur.

Couple robbed at gunpoint in CP

Two men followed them on motorbike

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two motorbike-borne men allegedly robbed a couple at gunpoint in Connaught Place on Friday, the police said.

The couple – Vinod Singh and Amrita Bohra – were riding a scooter and the wife suffered injuries on her leg when they fell off the vehicle in their attempt to dodge the robbers.

Mr. Singh and his wife were going to New Delhi railway station around 5.30 a.m. when the motorcycle-borne robbers started following their scooter around 5.30 a.m., the police said. At Hailey Road, the robbers threatened the couple at gunpoint, forcing Ms. Bohra to give away her gold chain.

"When they threatened us with country-made pistol, my wife immediately removed her chain and threw it on the road," said Mr. Singh, who works with a hospitality firm

Youths demand action on climate change

Delhi edition of Fridays for Future sees protesters raise slogans outside Environment Ministry office

VANGMAYI PARAKALA
NEW DELHI

At the Delhi edition of Fridays for Future, it wasn't uncommon to see youngsters with protest placards in one hand and carrying single-use plastic bottles with chilled water in the other.

This stood in stark irony not only to their cause, but also because of the Prime Minister's exhortation to Indians to eschew the use of single-use plastic by October 2, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Between Friday and September 27, FFF, a worldwide youth-led movement against climate change spurred on by 16-year-old activist Greta Thunberg from Sweden, is marking Global Climate Strike, timed to be in sync with the Climate Action Summit that UN Secretary-General António Guterres will hold on September 23 to address the "global climate emergency".

The Global Climate Strike, which kicked off in Australia, will see an estimated 5,000 protests spread over 150 countries, across one week. This will culminate in New York, where Ms. Thunberg is to lead a march to the UN headquarters.

Friday's protest in Delhi saw about 2,000 people marching from Lodi Garden, claimed one of the protesters, although there were about 300 people who sat through the protest outside the Ministry of Environment.



Protesters raising slogans in front of Indira Pariyavaran Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday in response to the call for a worldwide strike to demand measures to reverse climate change. ■ PRASHANT SONI, VANGMAYI PARAKALA



ment, Forest and Climate Change office in Jor Bagh. Many students, whose participation was independent and not as part of any organisation or school, said they found out about the protests through social media.

"Cool kids for a hot planet", "Hot but not sexy", "ACT NOW", "Earth will survive climate change, we won't" read some of the placards held by the protesters.

Even till hours before the protest, the organisers had not received permission from the authorities. There were barricades around the gathering, with police personnel having cordoned off a lane outside the Ministry's gate number 1.

Sloganeering and cheers got louder when a participant announced on loudspeaker that a delegation of five persons will be taken in-

side the Ministry to meet the representatives.

"While going in, they told us the Ministers aren't in town today. I believe there are two – one main Minister and one who looks after Delhi I think," said Akshay Kapoor, 24, a member of the FFF in Delhi, alluding possibly to Union Minister Prakash Javadekar and Minister of State, Babul Supriyo.

Meeting with official
According to Mr. Kapoor, Geeta Menon, Joint Secretary, Environment Ministry, met them, acknowledged their protest, but "didn't give us a strong word that anything will happen".

Among the other members of the Delhi chapter of FFF are Banashree, a student pursuing her masters from Delhi University; Aashiq Rahaman, a 20-year-old third-

year student from Zakir Hussain College, Ayushi Bose, a 17-year-old high school student, and Harsh Gupta, a 27-year-old filmmaker.

The gathering was a mix of high school students in their uniforms, fresh from a session of their ongoing term exams, university goers, climate change enthusiasts and activists, including expats, advocates for veganism, and a smattering of parents waiting for their children.

Environmental collectives and FFF "allies" like 'There's No Earth B', 'Extinction Rebellion', 'Nine is Mine', 'Tears of Earth', as well as representatives from Amnesty International and volunteers from Green Peace were also present at the protests.

"We have three demands, basically," said Mr. Gupta. "One is to declare a climate emergency. This is not only symbolic, with other countries doing this too, but it will also be a road map that will put pressure on the government to act; the second is that the government tells us the truth about how we are upholding the promises under the Paris Agreement [of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change], and the third is for them to put in place a legislation to do with the first two, which will also necessitate youth participation."

On September 27, FFF will stage another protest, this time at Jantar Mantar. "Originally, the FFF is a school student-led strike. But from what I've seen today, this is a little different in India," Mr. Gupta said. "The protest at Jantar Mantar will be led by students from schools like Delhi Public School and Amity International."

Student found dead, kin allege blackmail, abuse

Case registered against boyfriend

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

A 20-year-old language course student at YMCA, who was also pursuing graduation from Amity University, was found dead at her residence in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar on Thursday evening. No note has been recovered, the police said.

The woman's mother has lodged a complaint alleging that her daughter was harassed and blackmailed by her boyfriend. The police have registered a case under Section 306 (abettment to suicide) of the Indian Penal Code against the man.

A friend of the student, who lives close to her house in Mahair Enclave, said that the woman had called her around 5:30 p.m. "She told me that she had gone to see her boyfriend and asked me to come over. She asked me to get a packet of chips. I told her I'll come in an hour," she said.

When the friend reached her house no one answered the door after which she returned and subsequently called the woman's mother.

The mother had purportedly gone to Greater Kailash for a health check-up and returned around 7 p.m. When the daughter didn't open the door, she took neighbours' help to break it open.

The student was rushed to a private hospital where the doctors declared her brought dead. The police

were then informed.

The friend, standing at the cremation ground in Hari Nagar, said the woman had told her "that the boyfriend was threatening her to stay with him". He allegedly had some objectionable audio and video clips of her which he threatened to share online if she didn't agree to be with him.

'Abusive relationship'
The friend also said that the woman and her boyfriend used to fight regularly and "she was in an emotionally and physically abusive relationship". The woman's maternal uncle said that last year, her mother got her to break up with the man, but later he came to her gym and slapped her.

A relative said the woman shared a troubled relationship with her mother. "Her mother and father are divorced for the last 10 years. The two often quarrelled over personal matter and she had even left the house last year for about 10 days and stayed in a hostel in east Delhi," the relative said.

Another relative said she had accused her uncle of molestation last year. A case under Section 354 of IPC had been registered, confirmed a police officer.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday (10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.)

7 animal bite deaths in north Delhi so far: report

Around 18,000 people have been bitten by dogs and monkey this year

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Last year, 16,783 people were bitten and 15 of them had died.

Vaccine shortage

The civic body declared that there is a severe shortage of anti-rabies vials at its hospitals and health centres. While such centres

have a requirement of up to 21,000 vials of vaccine, currently there are only 2,855 available.

The civic body, in its report, said that tenders for the same had been floated at least twice but no company came forward as of yet. It added that the health

centres have received nearly 100 cases of dog bites.

The civic body has the responsibility of catching and neutering stray animals that it does through various NGOs. The report said that up to ₹3 crore were spent on these groups.

2 held at IGIA with forged travel papers

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Sydney-bound passenger and an agent were apprehended by the CISF with forged travelling documents at IGI Airport on Thursday. The accused were handed over to Delhi Police for further investigation.

The CISF in their statement said that on Thursday, they noticed suspicious activities of two passengers in the check-in area of Terminal-3 at IGI Airport.

"The passengers were later identified as Rahul Kumar, a native of Punjab, who was travelling to Sydney and Ravinder Singh, who was bound for Mumbai," the statement said.

Later, it was noticed that Kumar was not allowed for check-in by the airline as he was carrying a fake visa. Singh was an agent and he entered the terminal to assist Kumar, they said.

In Green Park. In the commotion, the couple fell from the scooter, and Ms. Bohra, who works at an MNC in Gurugram, sustained injuries, the police said.

DCP (New Delhi) Eish Singh said a case under IPC sections of robbery has been registered at the Connaught Place police station. "We are scanning CCTV footage around the area where the robbery took place for clues on the suspects," he said.

Two men followed them on motorbike

Geography Neetu Singh

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The patients, Zahir, had been brought to the Delhi government hospital on a reference from another hospital. On examination, the doctors declared him brought dead. The prosecution had alleged that the accused persons started arguing with a resident doctor, a nurse and a nursing orderly and damaged the defibrillator machine. The court held them guilty on the grounds of their identification by the nursing orderly.

The patient, Zahir, had been brought to the Delhi government hospital on a reference from another hospital. On examination, the doctors declared him brought dead. The prosecution had failed to prove the allegations under Section 353/34 of IPC. However, it has come on record that the accused persons with common intention had voluntarily obstructed the public servants," ruled Additional Sessions Judge Pawan Singh Rajawat.

Legal opinion sought on govt's nominations to DMRC Board

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has sought legal opinion on Delhi government's four "political" nominations to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Board, sources said.

"It is unlikely to accept the nominations since no political person has ever been appointed in any me-

tro board," they said.

The issue is hanging fire since July this year when four names – AAP leaders Atishi Marlena and Raghav Chadha, party's Rajya Sabha MP N.D. Gupta's son Naveen Gupta, and vice-chairperson of the Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission Jasmine Shah - were nominated to the DMRC Board by Minister Kailash Gahlot.

Day after BJP leader assaults wife, party orders probe

Sacked BJP Mehrauli district president may lose primary membership; he was replaced by Vikas Tanwar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A day after he was caught assaulting his wife on camera at the BJP State headquarters here, the party has launched a time-bound probe into the incident with sources claiming that Azad Singh, who has since been sacked from his post of Mehrauli district president, could lose his primary

party membership.

Mr. Singh, as per orders from Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, was immediately removed from his role as district president after a video of him slapping his now estranged wife, former south Delhi Mayor Sarita Chaudhary, surfaced on Thursday evening.

"The party is now con-

ducting an internal probe into the matter and will take a decision on allowing Mr. Singh to continue as a party member after the findings of the probe are in after ten days," said a party leader.

"It is a fact that bitter divorce proceedings between the couple are currently under way; but the fact that he assaulted a woman is inexcus-

able and it is likely that Mr. Singh will no longer be allowed to even continue as a party member," the leader said further.

Ms. Chaudhary was reportedly assaulted on Thursday outside the Delhi BJP headquarters after a poll-preparedness meeting, presided over by Union Minister and Delhi election in-charge Pra-

kash Javdekar.

Mr. Singh was sacked and replaced by Vikas Tanwar as the working president of the BJP Mehrauli district unit within minutes of the incident.

Meanwhile, the AAP on Friday took the opportunity to attack the BJP terming it an "anti-women" organisation.

Speaking to reporters at a

press conference, AAP spokesperson Atishi demanded a police probe. "In Delhi, the responsibility to ensure women's safety is with the Delhi Police which is under the Home Ministry of BJP-led Centre. Now if BJP cannot ensure the safety of a woman inside the party office how can they ensure the safety of women in Delhi?" she asked.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Reema Dass D/o Sh. Gautam Dass, R/o H.No. 307, Hari Nagar, Ashram, New Delhi** has been missing since 09.03.2012 from the jurisdiction of PS Sunlight Colony, South-East District, New Delhi. In this regard a FIR No. 101/12 u/s 363 IPC dated 16.03.2012 has been lodged at PS, Sunlight Colony, South-East District, New Delhi.

The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Reema Dass, **Father's Name:** Sh. Gautam Dass, **Age:** 23 Years, (age at the time of missing 16 years) **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Green Suit & Salwar. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

SHO
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/7609/SE/19

P.S., Sunlight Colony, New Delhi
Ph. : 011-26348324
8750870928

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Soni D/o Sh. Lal Chand, R/o E-2/66, Gali No. 1, 4th Pusta, Sonia Vihar, Delhi, Age : 16 yrs., Height : 5 ft., Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Long, Built : Medium, Wearing : Yellow Colour Suit-Salwar and Sandal in Feet,** has been missing / kidnapped since 27.04.2017 from her house. In this regard a case FIR No. 107/17 dated 27.04.2017 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS. Sonia Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Ph.: 011-24368639, 24368641, Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
PS. Sonia Vihar, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-24533174, 8750870729

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT "SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER"

Sealed item rate tenders on forms 6 & 8 are invited by the Executive Engineer H.P.PWD., Baijnath for the below mentioned work from the approved and eligible contractors/Firms as per enlistment rule-2015 in H.P.PWD., so as to reach in his office on or before 15.10.2019 up to 10.30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender forms can be had from his office against cash payment (Non refundable) up to 4.00 P.M. on 14.10.2019. The application for issue of tender forms shall be received up to 12.00 Noon on 11.10.2019. The Contractor enlisted in appropriate class can tender for his own class as well as one step below as per rule 8.1 of enlistment contract Rule 2015. The earnest money in the shape of National Saving certificate/Time Deposit accounts/Saving Accounts in any Post Office/Bank/H.P. duly pledged in favour of the XEN H.P.PWD., Baijnath must be accompanied with the tender documents. Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money as mentioned above will summarily be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 Days. The XEN reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or to drop the proposal of the tender without assigning any reasons.

Work No.1. Repair of the Sub-Judge court at Baijnath Distt, Kangra H.P. (SH: P/F PG-I Sheet gutter over existing RCC gutter and Tank work etc. Estimated Cost Rs. 1,17,748/- Earnest Money Rs.2400/- Time limit :- Two Months. Cost of Tender Form Rs. 350/-

Work No.2. A/R & M/O Rest House at Baijnath Distt, Kangra (SH:- Dismantling of roofing back side, P/F doors,windows cup board,tiles works and W.S & S.I. etc). Estimated Cost Rs. 4,20,400/- Earnest Money Rs.8,400/- Time limit:- Three Months. Cost of Tender Form Rs. 350/-

Work No.3. Special repair to Civil Hospital at baijnath. (SH:- Dismantling of glass,doors,P/F door frames,shutters tile work & W.S, S.I. fittings etc). Estimated Cost Rs. 3,64,696/- Earnest Money Rs.7300/- Time limit :- Three Months. Cost of Tender Form Rs. 350/-

Work No.4. Construction of link road from Acharya plant to village Gharnot at Km. 0/0 to 2/0 (SCSP) (SH: Construction of 8.00 mtr. span RCC Slab culvert at RD 0/010) (SW:- Construction of sub-structure) Estimated Cost Rs. 4,98,770/- Earnest Money Rs.10,000/- Time limit :- Three Months. Cost of Tender Form Rs. 350/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
1. The contractor should be registered as dealer under H.P. GST Tax Act. 2018 and also produce the Tin number, H.P. sales Tax clearance certificate from the Excise and Taxation Department.

2. The Pan Number, latest Income Tax clearance certificate and EPF No (Where applicable) duly attached with the application.

3. The contractor will have to produce the attested copy of his/their enlistment/renewal at the time of submitting application for issue of tender form failing which their application will not be entertained.

4. In case of holiday on the day of opening of tenders, the same will be opened on the next working day on the same time and venue.

5. The application form should accompany the earnest money in shape of FDR/NSC duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PWD Baijnath otherwise no form will be issued .

6. The contractor will also have to attach the labour employer license from the labour office with the application.

7. Tender not received on prescribed form and manner shall not be considered and will be liable for rejection straightway.

8. The contractor shall be responsible for rectifying defects noticed within One year from the date of completion of the work and the portion of security deposit relating to as phaltic Work shall be refunded after the expiry of this period.

9. The contractor shall have all required machinery such as Truck/ Tipper, Mixture, water tanker Vibrator etc or should submit the undertaking/affidavit regarding providing to him such machinery of owner's having such machinery.

10. The Contractor shall not have more than Two works in hand and in this regard alongwith application shall submit an under taking viz he will get complete the works in hand before award of work in schedule time.

11. All kind of material shall be arranged by the contractor by itself from the authorized firms/dealers as per clause No-10A.

12. The Cement shall be procured by the contractor at his own from the nearby godowns of Civil Supply against the approved/ permit.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Social Justice & Special Assistance Department Notice for Tender

Request for Proposal for Selection of a System Integrator For Implementation of Hostel Management System

Social Justice & Special Assistance Department, Government of Maharashtra, invites proposals from reputed and experienced Companies to participate in the competitive bidding process for "Request for Proposal for Selection of a System Integrator for Implementation of Hostel Management System".

For the detailed tender document, interested bidders should visit <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

The Tender document is available for download from 17.09.2019, 15:00 Hrs onwards. Refer tender Notice for detailed schedule.

Sd/-
(Sunil Sardar) Section Officer,
Social Justice & Special Assistance
Department Government of Maharashtra

DGIPR/2019/2020/3217

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Head Office, Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna -800021

CORIGENDUM

Tender Extension Notice for (NIT) NO. - 32/PR/BSPTCL/2019 PR No 07382

Due date for submission of bids and opening of Online tenders for NIT No.32/PR/BSPTCL/2019 for Appointment of Tariff & Regulatory Consultant For three years (FY 2020-21 to FY 2022-23) for BSPTCL and SLDC is extended as follows:-

Milestones	Date & Time
Last date of online sale of Bid Document/Request of bid/bid documents	up to 14.00 Hrs. on 23.09.2019
Last date of online submission of tender	up to 15:00 Hrs on 23.09.2019
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial Bid (Part-I)	After 16.00 Hrs. on 23.09.2019
Date of opening of Price Part	To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

NOTE: Corrigendum, addendum, time extension, etc shall only be notified on the eproc website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

Other Terms and Condition of the tender notice of NIT No 32/PR/BSPTCL/2019 Will remain same

Chief Engineer, PR No. 008124(Ni.Ni.) 2019-20 (P&E and Commercial & Regulatory Affairs Cell)

अद्य शयाव एवं मादक द्रव्य के संबंध में शिकायत टैल प्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करें

DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES JAMMU

E-TENDER NOTICE NO: DHSJ/LARVICIDES & INSECTICIDES FOR STATE MALARIOLOGIST, J&K STATE, JAMMU/03 of 2019.

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State, Online tenders are invited from the Original Manufacturers /Authorised dealer/Distributor for the supply of LARVICIDES & INSECTICIDES FOR STATE MALARIOLOGIST, J&K STATE, JAMMU" for the year 2019-20.

S.No. Name of the Item
1 Temephos 50% Ec
2 Cyphenothrin 5% Ec

Specification
Temephos 50% Ec
The Temephos 50% Ec should conform to ISI specification No: IS: 8498-1977 with amendments, bearing ISI certification mark.

Use: Mosquito Larvicide
Target Species : Mosquito larva

Expiry Date:
An expiry of minimum two years from the date of Manufacturing.

Packing: Packing should indicate Batch No., Name of Manufacturer, Date of Manufacturing Date of Expiry, Govt. Supply not for Sale.

Pack Size: Shall be packed in a 5 Litres packing with properly sealed.

Quality Assurance: Certificate/ test report from Govt. Approved Laboratory.

The particular of the tender are as under:-

S.No.	Particulars of the tenders	Cost of Tender	Earnest Money
1	"LARVICIDES & INSECTICIDES FOR STATE MALARIOLOGIST, J&K STATE, JAMMU"	Rs.750/- General Rs.350/- SSI Unit	Rs. 50,000/- Gen Rs. 20,000/- SSI Unit
2	for the year 2019-20.		
3	Publish date	17th of September, 2019 at 16:00 hours	
4	Document download start	19th of September, 2019 at 11:00 hours	
5	Bid submission start date	19th of September, 2019 at 11:00 Hours	
6	Bid submission end date	25th of September, 2019 upto 16:00 Hours	
7	Technical bid opening date (online)	27th of September, 2019 at 12:00 hours	
8	Financial bid opening date (online)	Shall be Communicated later on after opening & evaluation of technical bid.	
9	Financial & Technical Bid	Both the Bids Uploaded separately on line.	

The Terms & Conditions of e-NIT & other documents can be downloaded from this office official web site www.jktders.gov.in & www.iitjktenders.gov.in.

CONVENOR
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU
PURCHASE COMMITTEE
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES
JAMMU.

DIP/J-2741-P

E-TENDER NOTICE

TENDER Notice No. 06/TRD/DNR/OT/19-20, The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway Danapur invites sealed open tender on behalf

DELHI Timings		
SATURDAY, SEPT. 21		
● RISE 06:09 SET 18:19		
● RISE 23:04 SET 12:17		
SUNDAY, SEPT. 22		
● RISE 06:09 SET 18:18		
● RISE 23:57 SET 13:16		
MONDAY, SEPT. 23		
● RISE 06:10 SET 18:17		
● RISE 00:00 SET 14:13		

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Palam 35 24

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33°C One or two spells of rain and thundershower may occur at some parts. A largely comfortable day.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
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Specialists can work for govt. post-retirement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Specialist doctors in Punjab could now offer their services for five more years after their retirement at the age of 60.

Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu, in an official statement, said the specialist doctors could serve in the Health and Family Welfare Department after their retirement.

Specialist doctors such as gynaecologists, surgeons, orthopaedics, radiologists, anaesthetists etc. will work as consultants against the vacant 384 posts till the time regular appointments are made, he said.

Initially, each consultant may be appointed for a period of one year on contract basis. It may be extended on the basis of their performance, he said.

The remuneration allowed to these consultants should not be more than the last pay drawn minus pension, the Minister said.

He said specialist doctors shall only be appointed for performing clinical duties.

Adityanath will have to leave U.P. if NRC is implemented: Akhilesh

'The Chief Minister is a resident of Uttarakhand'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

Terming the National Register of Citizens a medium to instil fear, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday said if it is implemented in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath would have to leave the State.

Mr. Yadav was addressing a press conference at the party office here as he welcomed former BSP leaders Dayaram Pal and Mithai Lal Bharti into the Samajwadi Party fold. Mr. Pal has been a president of the Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party's U.P. unit.

Punjab man booked on spying charges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GURDASPUR

A 28-year-old man, who was accused of sharing sensitive information with Pakistan, has been booked by the Punjab police.

A case was registered against Vipan Singh under the relevant sections of the Official Secrets Act, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the IPC, Gurdaspur Superintendent of Police (Investigations) Harvinder Singh said on Friday.

Vipan was nabbed on Tuesday for allegedly providing photographs of the

U.P. farmers to march to Delhi

You can't get our vote only in the name of Ram temple and nationalism'

ANUJ KUMAR
NOIDA

Hundreds of farmers will march to Kisan Ghat in Delhi on Saturday after talks between members of the Bhartiya Kisan Sangathan (BKS) and representatives of the Agriculture Ministry failed in Noida.

Holding the BJP governments at the Centre and the State responsible for the poor state of the farm sector, the BKS had made 15 demands which include complete loan waiver, immediate payment of sugarcane crop dues, making electricity used in farming free and pension for aged farmers. The farmers also demanded that the cow maintenance fee set by the U.P. government at ₹30 per day should be increased to ₹300 per day.

"We thought the Chief Minister of the State knew everything about cows and their maintenance. We want to tell him that if he is spending ₹30 per day on his cow, we are ready to accept ₹25," said Pooran Singh, national president of BKS.

He asked when Tikauna Mill in Muzaffarnagar could pay the sugarcane dues to the farmers, why can't they



Farmers under the banner of Bhartiya Kisan Sangathan interact with officials in Noida on Friday. ■ PTI

ers. "There are many sugar mills which have paid only 35% of the existing dues," he claimed. When reminded that tractor and trolleys are not allowed in the national capital, according to a Supreme Court order, Mr. Singh said:

"The Supreme Court has also said that the sugarcane dues should be paid within 14 days. Is anybody listening?"

Power price hike

On the issue of rise in electricity rates, Mr. Singh said when a farmer had no right on fixing the minimum support price of crops why should he pay for the electricity used in growing those

crops. "It is the government that decides the price, so it should pay for the electricity."

S.S. Tomar, a director in the Agriculture Ministry, and D.K. Pandey, adviser in the Agriculture Ministry, listened to the demands and found them genuine. They asked for 21 days to put them before the authorities concerned but the BKS leadership felt that it was just a way to buy time.

"These are not demands, they are our rights, most of which were there in the BJP manifesto. We are not here to give a memorandum. We could have done it in Saharanpur," said Vineet Jaiswal, SP (City), Noida.

should have sent people who have the authority to take action on our demands," said Mr. Singh, who started the Kisan Mazdoor Adhikar Yatra from Saharanpur on September 11.

He added that if the government didn't take them seriously it would have to face the wrath of the farmers in the upcoming Assembly polls in three States and by-polls in Uttar Pradesh. "You could not get our vote only in the name of Ram temple and nationalism," Mr. Singh said. "If the farmer, soldier, and labour of the country go on even a three-day leave, the nation will cease to function."

Law and order problem

The Noida police were still working with the Delhi police and district administration to resolve the stalemate. "We are still trying to convince the farmers but are not taking any chances in terms of law and order. We have no

problem if they march peacefully to Delhi. The problem arises when they try to take their tractor-trolley along or camp on the road," said Vineet Jaiswal, SP (City), Noida.

Rift in Rajasthan Congress over merger of BSP MLAs

Party may face difficulties in preparations for civic polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Amid speculations about a Cabinet reshuffle in Rajasthan after the merger of six BSP MLAs with the Congress, signs of rift and discontent have emerged in the ruling party. The infighting may create difficulties for the Congress which is preparing for the municipal elections due in November and planning to launch a membership drive in the State.

The BSP MLAs' defection to the Congress, just when reports of the Bharatiya Janata Party trying to lure them in a bid to repeat a Karnataka-type upheaval in Rajasthan had started appearing,

has been perceived in political circles here as a "masterstroke" of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. Senior BJP leaders in the State were left bewildered by the move.

The merger has taken the Congress's tally from 100 to 106 in the 200-member State Assembly, resulting in a setback to the BJP rather than the BSP. While affirming that the BSP was not in a



vice-president Laxman Singh Rawat said regarding the BSP MLAs with ministerial posts and other plum assignments would demotivate Congress MLAs and workers. He affirmed that appointing first-time winners as Ministers would send across a wrong message in the party's rank and file.

Though Mr. Gehlot has insisted that the six BSP MLAs had joined the Congress on their own for ensuring the government's stability, the merger was a replay of the 2009 events when six BSP MLAs had defected to the Congress which was five short of a clear majority in the House. Half of them were made Ministers and others were appointed Parliamentary Secretaries.

Though Deputy CM Sachin Pilot, who is also the PCC president, has defended the latest political developments, his recent utterances calling for "more attention" to the law and order situation have been seen as criticism of the Home Ministry, which is headed by Mr. Gehlot.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a man namely Tabrez Alam, S/O Mohd. Yusuf, R/O J-3/168, Gali No. 1, Near Anar Wali Masjid, Kishan Kunj, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi. The man has been missing since 06.08.2019 from the area of P.S. Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi.

In this regard DD No. 63-A dated 09.08.2019 has been registered at P.S. Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing man is as under:
Name: Tabrez Alam, **Age:** 29 Years, **Height:** 5'8", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Pink Colour T-Shirt and Blue Colour Jeans Pant.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing man, kindly inform SHO/P.S. Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi.

Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Ph.: 011-23015229, 23015218
Fax: 011-23011334
DP/6968/ED/19

SHO
P.S. Laxmi Nagar, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-22542992, 8750870621

CBI seeks 10 days' time to file chargesheet

Gang-rape case of minor in Unnao

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

still under investigation and sought 10 days to file the chargesheet.

Counsel for the accused, advocate Sunil Pratap Singh opposed CBI's submissions and said it was becoming a never ending process as more than 16 months has lapsed since the case was handed over to the agency.

District Judge Dharmesh Sharma, however, asked the CBI to complete its investigation in the case and file a chargesheet at the earliest possible as per the directions of the Supreme Court.

The apex court had on September 6 granted two weeks time to complete its probe in the case.

During Friday's hearing, senior public prosecutor Ashok Bhartendu, appearing for the CBI, told the court that the matter was

closed for bidding

Date of Re-encryption of Online Bid from

Opening of financial Bid

Executive Engineer (M.Shah(N)-I) on behalf of Commissioner EDMC invites on line tenders for works given below:-

S.No.:1 Name of Work: Imp/ Dev. of 10 Nos. Compounds in D-1 Block staff quarter Nand Nagri (-) by pdg 0 from in Ward No.32 E/243 Shah (N) Zone, Head of Account: XL-VIII-S-(iii), Tender Amount: 2989017/-, Earnest Money: 59800/-, T.O.C.: 3 M, V.O.R.: 5 M, Tender Cost.: 500/- Tender No.: 316236

S.No.:2 Name of Work: Imp/ Dev. of 19 Nos. Compounds in E-2 Block staff quarter Nand Nagri (-) by pdg 0 from in Ward No.32 E/243 Shah (N) Zone, Head of Account: XL-VIII-S-(iii), Tender Amount: 5607053/-, Earnest Money: 112200/-, T.O.C.: 3 M, V.O.R.: 5 M, Tender Cost.: 1000/- Tender No.: 316237

S.No.:3 Name of Work: Imp/ Dev. of E-1 Block Jhalkari Bai School in E-1 Block Nand Nagri (-) by pdg BW from in Ward No.32 E/243 Shah (N) Zone, Head of Account: XL-VIII-S-(iii), Tender Amount: 3104429/-, Earnest Money: 62100/-, T.O.C.: 3 M, V.O.R.: 5 M, Tender Cost.: 500/- Tender No.: 316238

S.No.:4 Name of Work: Imp/ Dev. of Numberdar Salekh Chand Tyagi Mary by pdg 0 from Wazirabad road EDMC Pary School Mandoli Boys in Ward No.55 E/264 Shah (N) Zone, Head of Account: XL-VIII-S-(iv), Tender Amount: 12081582/-, Earnest Money: 241700/-, T.O.C.: 3 M, V.O.R.: 5 M, Tender Cost.: 1500/- Tender No.: 316239

S.No.:5 Name of Work: Imp/ Dev. of 19 Nos. Compounds in E-2 Block staff quarter Nand Nagri (-) by pdg 0 from in Ward No.32 E/243 Shah (N) Zone, Head of Account: XL-VIII-S-(iv), Tender Amount: 1992119/-, Earnest Money: 398600/-, T.O.C.: 3 M, V.O.R.: 5 M, Tender Cost.: 1500/- Tender No.: 316240

S.No.:6 Name of Work: Imp/ Dev. of Pardhan wali gali by pdg CC from Joharipur road to Nalla road in Ward No.52 E/261 Shah (N) Zone, Head of Account: XL-VIII-S-(iv), Tender Amount: 8387021/-, Earnest Money: 167800/-, T.O.C.: 3 M, V.O.R.: 5 M, Tender Cost.: 1000/- Tender No.: 316241

S.No.:7 Name of Work: Imp/ Dev. of Saboli, Road by pdg 0 from Fanne Khan Mod to Rana chowk in Ward No.54 E/263 Shah (N) Zone, Head of Account: XL-VIII-S-(iv), Tender Amount: 7850378/-, Earnest Money: 157100/-, T.O.C.: 3 M, V.O.R.: 5 M, Tender Cost.: 1000/- Tender No.: 316242

S.No.:8 Name of Work: Imp/ Dev. of Road by pdg CC from Kishan Lal Chowk to H. No. 178 and upto Kabristan corner in Ward No.55 E/264 Shah (N) Zone, Head of Account: XL-VIII-S-(iv), Tender Amount: 8696433/-, Earnest Money: 174000/-, T.O.C.: 3 M, V.O.R.: 5 M, Tender Cost.: 1000/- Tender No.: 316243

S.No.:10 Name of Work: Imp/ Dev of Transformer wali gali and Shani Bazar road by pdg CC from Joharipur road to Loni road in Ward No.52 E/261 Shah (N) Zone, Head of Account: XL-VIII-S-(iv), Tender Amount: 1469912/-, Earnest Money: 294000/-, T.O.C.: 3 M, V.O.R.: 5 M, Tender Cost.: 1500/- Tender No.: 316245

The tender document can be download online from the website <http://www.mcdonline.gov.in/> and also available on the website <http://mcctenders.com/>, where bidding by approved and eligible contractors.

Only the registered contractors of the MCD in the relevant categories are eligible to participate.

R.O. No. 55/DPI/East/2019-20
Sd/-[M.Sh-(N)]-I
EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 45-50 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** White Colour T-Shirt and Blue Colour Lower was found dead at Footpath, Opposite Children Park, Narwana Road, West Vinod Nagar, Delhi on 17.09.19 at 07:00 am.

In this regard a FIR/DD No. 12A, dated 17.09.2019 has been registered at P.S. Madhu Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about

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Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
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The details of tender, quantity, specification and tender documents are made available in the website (<https://tripuratenders.gov.in> and ardtripura.nic.in) also in the news portal of Tripura www.tripura.info.com.

(D. K. CHAKMA)
Chief Executive Officer
Tripura Livestock Development Agency
Astabal, Agartala

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

01905-272269 Fax: -272862
Email: ee-dhar-hp@nic.in
No: PW-DPD-CB-Tender/2019:11850-52
Dated: 19/09/2019

The Executive Engineer, Dharampur Division, HPPWD Dharampur, Distt: Mandi (H.P) on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (In Rs.) for downloading	Starting Date	Earhest Money (In Rs.)	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Construction of ITI building at Sandhole in Tehsil Dharampur, District Mandi (H.P) SH. Building portion, W.S & S.J and rain water harvesting tank	3,79,78,531/-	23.09.2019	4,15,000/-	09.10.2019

The bidders are advised to note other details of tender from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer,
Dharampur Division,

HPPWD Dharampur, Distt: Mandi (H.P)

on behalf of Governor of H.P

HP/2132/19-20

HIM SUCHANA AVAN JAN SAMPAK

Rajeev Kumar skips CBI summons for third time



Rajeev Kumar. • FILE PHOTO

He allegedly suppressed evidences in Saradha scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

CBI officials on Friday went to various locations to trace former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar after he again failed to turn up at the agency's office here in the morning in connection with the probe into the Saradha chit fund scam, sources in the agency said.

Mr. Kumar was summoned by the CBI to appear before its officials in connection with the multi-crore ponzi scam as he is alleged to have suppressed crucial pieces of evidences required to prepare the final chargesheet.

Officials of the CBI's Special Crime Branch formed teams and visited the official residence of Mr. Kumar, now Additional Director General of CID, on Park Street here, while another team went to a resort in South 24 Parganas to trace him, sources said.

On Thursday also, CBI sleuths had gone to the IPS officers' mess and a five-star hotel. This is the third occasion since Saturday that Mr. Kumar has defied CBI summons to appear before its team at the CGO complex of

ice in Salt Lake.

The Calcutta High Court on Friday last withdrew the protection granted to Mr. Kumar from the CBI taking any coercive action against him. The CBI had also sought the help of the West Bengal government to know his whereabouts.

In reply to a letter by the probe agency, State Director General of Police Virendra said Mr. Kumar was on leave from September 9 to 25, 2019.

Mr. Kumar was part of a special investigation team set up by the State government to investigate the Saradha scam before the Supreme Court handed over the case to the CBI in 2014 along with other chit fund cases.

The Saradha group of companies allegedly duped lakhs of people to the tune of ₹2,500 crore, promising higher rates of return on their investments.

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(CIN-U85100JH2013SPC001276), Email-mchidpc2014@gmail.com

Tender Notice No: JMC/NITI/9/Hemoglobinometer/25
RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement System)

Supply of Invasive Digital Hemoglobinometer

The Managing Director, Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Development & Procurement Corporation Ltd. (JMHIDPCL) hereby invites separate Technical and Commercial Bids (Two Cover System) through e-tender from Manufacturers/their Authorized Dealer for Supply of Invasive Digital Hemoglobinometer.

The Blank tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and should be submitted through e-procurement system only.'

1	Name of Work	Supply of Invasive Digital Hemoglobinometer and consumables (Lancets/cuvettes/strips).
2	Time of Completion	As specified.
3	Date of Publication of Tenders on website	18.09.2019
4	Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time	25.09.2019 at 1 PM in Office of JMHIDPCL, GVI Campus, Tata Road, Namkum, Ranchi-834010
5	Date / time for receipt of bids	03.10.2019 to 10.10.2019 up to 3 PM
6	Date of Technical Bid opening	11.10.2019 at 3 PM
7	Tender fee (Non-refundable) & EMD	Rs 1000.00 (Rupees One thousand only) and Rs 50.00/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) respectively should be submitted in original before the opening of the technical bid to the office of the tender inviting authority.
8	Contact no. of procurement person	7004871564 , 9771500075

Note: The above dates may change due to abrupt declaration of holidays.
Detailed tender document can be seen and applied through website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>, hard copies of Technical bid & Price bid will not be entertained except Tender fee & EMD.
PR 217398 Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society (19-20)_D

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Managing Director,
JMHIDPCL, Govt. of Jharkhand
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Tender Reference : ASAP/ASDC-PM2/1710/2018
Request for proposal are invited for the selection of agency for supply and installation of following equipment selected Government Polytechnics across Kerala.
1. Total Station - Tender ID: 2019_ASAP_300098_1
2. Robotics Lab - Tender ID: 2019_ASAP_300019_1
Bid submission end date: 24-09-2019, 06:55 PM
Technical bid opening date: 26-09-2019, 11:00 AM
For more details, please visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Sd/- Chief Executive Officer

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E-TENDER NOTICE

TENDER SPECIFICATION NO. 07 AND 08(SE) (MM) 2019-20

Superintending Engineer (MM), Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd., V.C.V. Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Dehradun invites E-tender for sale of ACSR Conductor scrap material on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" available/to be available in Electricity Store Center Dehradun/Rishikesh/Roorkee/Haridwar/Kotdwara/Haldwani/Kashipur/Rudrapur/Tanakpur/Pithoragarh/Masi. The last date of online request on tender document/submission/opening date of tender are as given below:-

SI. No.	Tender No.	Details of Scrap Material	Total Quantity (Unit in MT)	Average Turnover for Previous 3 years (In Rs.)	Estimated Value [FDR /CDR] (in Rs.)	Earnest Money [GST /Draft] (in Rs.)	Cost of tender Document including GST [Draft] (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time of online request for purchase of the tender document & submission of tender in online & off line mode	Date of opening of Bid part 1st in online & off line mode
1	Tender No. 07(SE) (MM) 2019-20	ACSR Conductor Scrap under ESD Dehradun	414.12 MT	565.95 Lakh	377.30 Lakh	7.55 Lakh	17700.00	14/10/2019 upto 17:00 Hrs	15/10/2019 at 16:00 Hrs
2	Tender No. 08(SE) (MM) 2019-20	ACSR Conductor Scrap under ESD Haldwani	164.87 MT	300.42 Lakh	150.21 Lakh	3.00 Lakh	11800.00	14/10/2019 upto 17:00 Hrs	15/10/2019 at 16:30 Hrs

For further details, please visit website www.uktenders.gov.in
No.:502/EE (CM)/UPCL/A-2 | Dated: 19/09/2019

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MNS may enter
fray, contest
over 40 seats

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

After pondering for months whether it should contest the Assembly polls, and going silent for days in the wake of party chief Raj Thackeray's questioning by the Enforcement Directorate, the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) finally seems to have decided to enter the fray.

At a meeting called by Mr. Thackeray on Friday, party workers from Mumbai demanded that the MNS contest the polls, unlike the general elections.

According to party sources, the MNS is likely to contest more than 40 seats in the Assembly polls. "Cities like Mumbai, Pune, Nasik and Aurangabad are on our radar, but we will target rural parts as well," said one MNS leader. When asked if the party will form an alliance with the Congress or Nationalist Congress Party, he said no such decision has been taken.

MNS general secretary Anil Shidore said Mr. Thackeray is taking views from local leaders. "We are not in a hurry. Let the Election Commission announce the poll dates. We will open our cards at the right time. We will take a decision best suited for the party and its future growth," he told *The Hindu*. The party has another meeting on Saturday.

Despite Modi's snub, Thackeray hopeful of alliance with BJP

Sena chief says no tension among allies, seat shares to be announced in 2-3 days

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not even mention the Shiv Sena in his speech at the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) rally in Nashik, Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Friday said the two parties would contest the Assembly polls together and announce the seat-sharing arrangement in two to three days.

"The seat-sharing formula was decided at the time of the Lok Sabha elections between three of us [Mr. Thackeray, BJP president Amit Shah and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis]. We are firm on that. The announcement of the alliance will be made soon," Mr. Thackeray told the media. He said there is no tension between both the parties.

Mr. Shah will be in Mumbai on Sunday, and a decision on the alliance is likely to be taken then.

The Sena chief said it was he who had requested the Chief Minister to prepare a list of candidates. "I told him that after getting the list from him, I will discuss with my leaders and a final decision will be taken," he said, adding that his earlier statement on this was not sarcastic. "It was the media which spread reports that both par-



Making a point: Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray addresses a press conference in Mumbai on Friday. ■ VIJAY BATE

ties will contest 135 seats each," he said.

No backstabbing

Reacting to Mr. Modi's comment on the stable government in the last five years, the Sena chief said his party did not betray the BJP. "The BJP did not have a majority. We supported the govern-

ment without backstabbing it. I am happy the Sena has been a part of State's development in these years."

Commenting on the proposal to remove trees in Aarey colony for a Metro car shed, on which the Sena and BJP appear to have locked horns, Mr. Thackeray said the party's opposition was

Of course, we have trust in the judiciary. This case has been in courts for years. That's why I visited Ayodhya. If possible, I may visit again before the polls

neither to development nor the Metro project. "Our opposition to cutting trees in Aarey is based on facts," he said. Reacting to Mr. Fadnavis' statement that the government could reconsider scrapping the refinery project in Nanded, the Sena chief said if decisions are retracted in such a manner then people will stop trusting the government.

Hindu sentiments'

Going on the defensive after Mr. Modi's taunt at certain 'badbole' (loudmouth) leaders talking about the Ram temple, Mr. Thackeray said he isn't making comments, but only voicing the sentiments of the Hindus. "Of course, we have trust in the judiciary. This case has been in courts for many years. That's why I visited Ayodhya. If possible, I may visit Ayodhya again before the Assembly polls. If the PM is saying we should wait for the court order, then it is absolutely right," he said.

BJP campaign to focus on Article 370, Cong. on economy

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

While the Congress focuses on issues related to farmers and the economy, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is set to highlight the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir on the campaign trail for Assembly polls.

Congress strategy
The Congress, meanwhile, is focusing on the economy and farmers' problems. "The BJP-Shiv Sena government's claim of having given the country's biggest loan waiver of ₹34,000 crore to 89 lakh farmers has proved to be false. More than 50% farmers are yet to benefit from the scheme," Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant said. He said that as on August 31, the government had waived loans worth ₹18,761 crore of 44, 04,147 farmers, keeping nearly 45 lakh farmers waiting.

Addressing a press conference in Mumbai, Congress spokesperson Gaurav Valabh said bank loans to industries in Maharashtra declined for the first time in 30 years in 2018. "The government should declare how much foreign investment came into the State through the Make in Maharashtra initiative and publish online district-wise data on how many new businesses are being set up," he said.

Pansare case:
3 in judicial
custody till
October 4

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

A local court in Kolhapur on Friday remanded Sachin Andure, named by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to be one of the shooters of rationalist Dr. Narendra Dabholkar, and two others in judicial custody till October 4 in connection with the 2015 murder of Communist leader Govind Pansare.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Maharashtra Police probing the case produced Mr. Andure along with Ganesh Miskin and Amit Baddi (who are also named in the murders of scholar M.M. Kalburgi and journalist Gauri Lankesh) in the court of judge S.S. Raul on expiry of their police custody.

After the SIT submitted that it had no further need of their custody, the judge directed that the three be remanded in magisterial custody. Mr. Andure will be sent back to Yerwada Central Jail in Pune, where he is being held for Dabholkar's murder, while Mr. Miskin and Mr. Baddi will be shifted to Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail, where they are being lodged in connection with the 2018 Nalasopara arms haul case.

Till now, 12 people have been named in the Pansare murder case.

Elgar Parishad: no proof against Ferreira, lawyer tells HC

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The advocate appearing for activist Arun Ferreira, one of the accused in the Elgar Parishad case, told the Bombay High Court on Friday that the Pune Police had arrested the activist only based on documents and letters recovered from computers of the other co-accused in the case. He said there was no corroborative evidence to implicate Mr. Ferreira in the Bhima Koregaon violence.

Arguing for the activist's bail, advocate Sudeep Pasbola also told a Single Bench of Justice S.V. Kotwal that he was being targeted because he had assisted advocate Surendra Gadling, also lodged at Yerwada jail with him, in a case pertaining to activities of the CPI (Maoist) before the Nagpur Bench of the High Court.

Mr. Pasbola told the Bench that Mr. Ferreira was behind bars for nearly five years after being wrongly implicated – and later acquitted – in 12 cases in 2007.

He said Mr. Ferreira was an office-bearer of the Indian Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL), which was headed by Mr. Gadling. Sudha Bharadwaj, also an accused in the case, was its vice-president.

Mr. Pasbola said the IAPL



Arun Ferreira

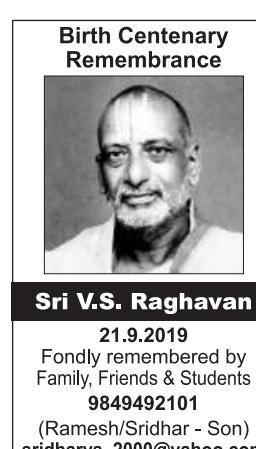
was not a banned organisation under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, but the fact that Mr. Ferreira had participated in the golden jubilee celebrations of the CPI (Maoist) movement held under the aegis of the IAPL was being taken as evidence to implicate him in the Bhima-Koregaon riots and Elgar Parishad.

Mr. Pasbola said Mr. Ferreira's name only came up in the documents recovered from the computers of Mr. Gadling and another accused, Rona Wilson, and that there was no mention of him in either the riots or the Elgar Parishad.

The hearing will continue on September 23. After hearing arguments in the bail applications of Vernon Gonsalves and Ms. Bharadwaj, the court is now hearing Mr. Ferreira's bail plea.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

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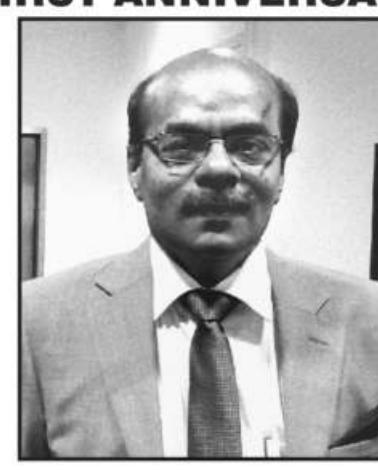


IN MEMORIAM

SRI. T.K.VARADARAJAN, Prathama Acharyapunusa, T.T.D., S/o Late Sri Ranganayaki & Late Sri. T.K.Srinivasa Thalihachari, Advocate, Madras, departed this day 2010. Dear Brother, Parents affectionately remembered.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY



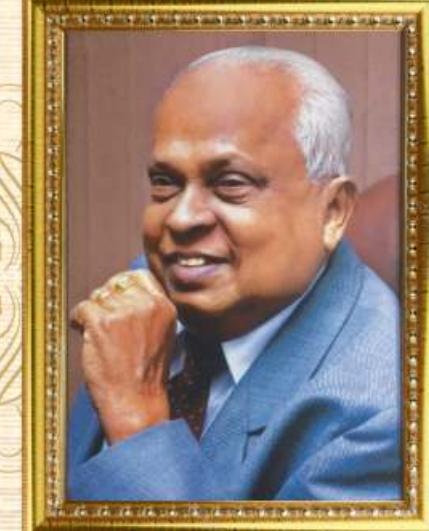
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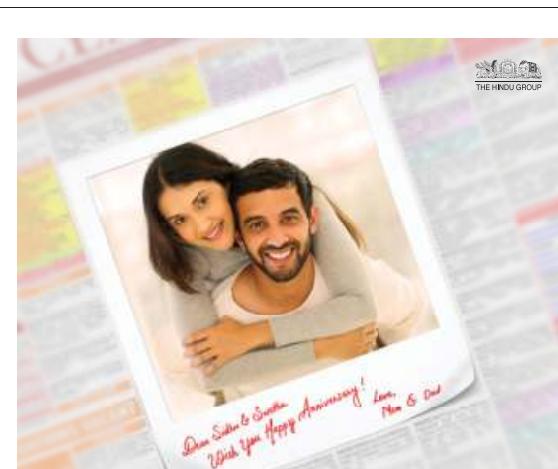
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IN BRIEF



HC to hear Shivakumar's plea on September 26

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Friday said it would hear on September 26 the plea by Karnataka Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar, seeking a copy of his statements recorded by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case. Mr. Shivakumar sought the court's direction to call for the transcript under Section 50 of the PMLA. PTI

Jagan, KCR to meet on September 24

VIJAYAWADA
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his Telangana counterpart K. Chandrasekhar Rao will meet on September 24 to discuss the diversion of Godavari water to the Krishna basin to mitigate water problems in their States.

Meet of DGPs discusses draft policy on drones

Nodal officer for coordination will be appointed by all States

MARRI RAMU
HYDERABAD
Issues relating to what types of drones can be permitted and the formulation of a policy on their usage came up for discussion at a meeting of DGPs of southern States here on Friday.

With individuals and private companies planning extensive usage of drones for purposes like video coverage of events to agriculture, the Centre wanted to evolve a drone policy.

This point was taken up at the recently held meeting of the DGPs of all States in New Delhi by the Centre.

₹58 cr. saved in reverse tendering: A.P.

Polavaram works contract goes for ₹231.46 crore

STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA



Mired in controversy: An aerial view of the Polavaram project in East Godavari. •FILE PHOTO

The Andhra Pradesh government announced on Friday that it had finalised the contract for a portion of works related to the Polavaram irrigation project via reverse tendering, claiming that it had made "savings of ₹58.53 crore" in the process.

The government finalised tenders for package 65 – Polavaram left connectivity – on Friday. Hyderabad-based MAX Infra (I) Limited bagged the contract. While six companies were in the fray, MAX Infra emerged as Li bidder.

After the completion of the reverse auction process, the firm quoted ₹231.46 crore, which is 15.6% less than the estimated cost value (ECV) of ₹274.25 crore. The savings from the previous agreement (during the pre-

vious government) and the present agreement value is ₹58.53 crore, said a press release from the government.

Reduction in cost

Incidentally, the same company had bagged the contract during the TDP regime. The firm then quoted 4.7% excess over ECV of ₹276.80 crore. The works were earlier awarded at ₹292.09

crore. The agency executed works for a value of ₹2.55 crore (0.92% approximately) as on August 17 this year against the value, and expenditure was not incurred so far. Patel Engineering Limited, Mumbai; MEGA Engineering and Infrastructure Limited, Hyderabad; AFCONS Infrastructure Limited, Mumbai; MRKR-SLR(JV) Hyderabad and RRCIPL-

crore.

WCPL Consortium, Hyderabad, were other firms that participated in the bidding.

On the other hand, the financial bids for Polavaram will be opened on September 23.

The financial bids were submitted for head works, spillway, spill channel and the earth-cum-rockfill dam. The government stated that the tender value of the main dam was ₹1,771 crore.

Technical bids

After opening the technical bids, Water Resources Minister P. Anil Kumar said it was a good development as the government could save about ₹50 crore through reverse tendering. The financial bids will throw light on how much public money can be saved further, he said.

The State government went ahead with the reverse tendering after an experts committee found that irregularities had taken place in awarding the contracts.

It's re-tenders, not reverse tenders: Naidu

STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu alleged that the YSRCP government had called for "re-tenders", and not "reverse tenders", for the Polavaram project by diluting the conditions for awarding it to contractors close to the establishment.

Finding fault with the financialisation of price bids ahead of the technical bids, Mr. Naidu alleged, "By doing so, the government has flouted norms."

The government had paid no heed to the warnings of the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) as well, Mr. Naidu claimed.



A file photo of residents staging a protest against the demolition of apartments in Maradu municipality.

Order in Maradu case will be executed: Kerala

But voices some concerns in affidavit

K.S. SUDHI

KOCHI

The Kerala government, which assured the Supreme Court that it will implement its directives in "letter and spirit," has expressed apprehension about the impact of the demolition of the Maradu apartments on environment and human life.

The State voiced its concerns in an affidavit filed by Chief Secretary Tom Jose in the court on Friday, the deadline for the demolition of Holy Faith H2O, Jain Housing, Alfa Serene, and Golden Kayaloram apartments that had been constructed in violation of the Coastal Regulation Zone guidelines.

The government had taken steps to deal with the demolition with utmost care and concern. An expert opinion from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, had been received, he submitted.

While stating that the demolition process would require appropriate technology and machinery for razing the structures and expeditious disposal of debris, the State submitted that there were "space constraints for the proper disposal of the waste/debris". If the buildings are "demolished in one go without carrying out

proper study and planning, it will result in larger ecological disaster, seriously prejudicing the inhabitants and environment of even the nearby places," he stated.

The State further submitted that "this is one of the first instances of demolition of buildings of this magnitude and nature. It is also a fact that the department concerned lacks experience and expertise in handling this situation in a very short time", Mr. Jose submitted.

Placing the responsibility of implementing the court order on the Maradu municipality, Mr. Jose explained the steps taken by the government after the May 8 order for demolition. He also elaborated on the measures initiated by the secretary of the Maradu municipality, including serving eviction notices and inviting expression of interest from specialised agencies with expertise in controlled implosion.

Mr. Jose, who tendered his "unqualified apology" for any aspect of his conduct, which the court might have construed as not in accordance with its order, also requested that he be exempted from personal appearance. He promised to monitor the implementation of the court order.

Mohanlal chargesheeted for illegal possession of ivory

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Mohanlal

Actor Mohanlal has been chargesheeted by the Kerala Forest Department for illegal possession of ivory and failing to inform the Chief Wildlife Warden about its possession and its transfer.

G. Dhaniklal, Range Forest Officer, Kodanad, submitted the chargesheet against the actor and three others for offences committed in violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 at the judicial first class magistrate court. The alleged offence was committed in 2011.

P.N. Krishnakumar of Olloor, K. Radhakrishnan of

dlife trophy from elephants, a Schedule One animal, which has been accorded maximum legal protection, said forest officials.

Mr. Krishnakumar, the second accused, illegally transferred the two ivory tusks in his possession to Mr. Mohanlal and abetted in keeping them at the residence of the actor. The third accused purchased ivory from Tamil Nadu without any documents and illegally brought them to his home at Thripunithura and later transferred it illegally to Mr. Mohanlal. Ms. Radhakrishnan, the fourth accused, kept the ivory in her possession for 11 years, said the chargesheet.

The offences are punishable with imprisonment up to seven years and a fine since the case is related to the sale and transfer of ivory, a wil-

DEATH

Deepest Condolences

*A beautiful soul, full of love and faith,
ascended to heaven, away from me,
but closer to God,*

N. MURUGESAN Senguntha Mudaliyar

BORN 16.08.1934

DIED 20.09.2019

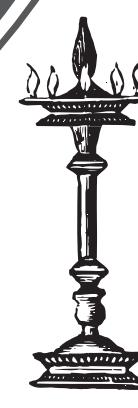
Passed away peacefully on
20.09.2019 (Friday) Early Morning

Deeply Mourned by

M.Umapathi (Son)
Chairman and Managing Director
Voltech Group of Companies, Chennai - 56.

& Family members, Relatives, Friends

Contact : +91 96000 46106



IN BRIEF



Bengal Governor, State at loggerheads

The 'rescue' of Minister Babul Supriyo from university sets off controversy

STAFF REPORTER
KOLKATA

The newly appointed Governor of West Bengal Jagdeep Dhankar has taken on State Education Minister and Trinamool Congress secretary general Partha Chatterjee over incidents of violence on the campus of Jadavpur University in Kolkata on Thursday evening.

The Governor had intervened to personally escort Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Babul Supriyo from the campus amid protests and heckling from students, who objected to his presence.

Mr. Chatterjee had claimed that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had requested the Governor not to go to the university at the peak of commotion and to "give the government some time to peacefully solve the issue."

"This is most unfortunate and shocking that our Governor, the custodian of the Constitution of the State, without informing the elected government went to the so-called rescue of the BJP leader from Jadavpur University... Chief Minister requested him several times that the Governor being the constitutional head need not go at this moment. The CM requested him to give the government some time to peacefully solve the issue," Mr. Chatterjee said.

A press note issued by Mr. Dhankar's office said, the Minister was not aware of the developments that took place before the Governor went to the University to rescue Mr. Supriyo. "Obviously, he did not know of the developments that took place between the Governor and the DGP [Director General of Police]/ CS [Chief Secretary] as also the conversation with



Angry faces: Police trying to stop BJP supporters as they attempted to block roads near Jadavpur University. ■PTI

the Honorable Chief Minister," the press note said.

Mr. Supriyo, along with designer Agnimitra Paul, had gone to the campus to attend a seminar organised by the Akhil Bhartiya Vidarthi Parishad (ABVP) on Thursday. However, several students had protested against their entry by raising black flags and asked him to leave. The situation escalated when Mr. Supriyo refused to budge. As tensions rose, he remained stuck inside the college premises till the Governor ar-

rived at around 8 p.m. and escorted him out.

Meanwhile, members of ABVP and BJP forcefully entered the college premises, vandalised university property and beat up some students.

Trinamool issued a statement on Friday, reiterating Mr. Chatterjee's "stand" and argued that it "must be made very clear [that] universities are autonomous institutions and as per time-honoured tradition, police cannot enter university campus with-

out permission of VC."

While acknowledging that Mr. Dhankar had spoken to the Chief Minister and "duly appraised her", the Raj Bhawan note claimed that the Governor had very little option but to head for the university in south Kolkata.

"There were many telephonic interactions between the two and in his high regard that the Governor/ Chancellor has for the Hon'ble CM, personally and for the Office the CM holds, he would not like to divulge the conversation between the two, except that he left for the place after sufficient time had elapsed and the situation did not show any change," the Raj Bhawan press note argued.

However, a senior Trinamool leader claimed that it is the "job of the State administration to appraise the Governor about a crisis as law and order is still the State subject." This is for the first time that the new Governor and the ruling party directly confronted each other.

SC seeks responses from UGC, govt. on joint plea

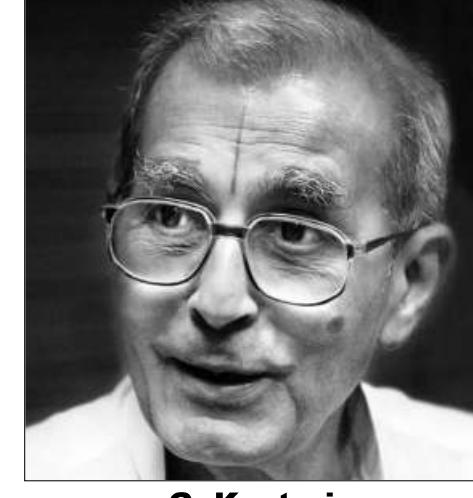
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought the government's response to a joint petition filed by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi for a direction to the University Grants Commission (UGC) to take steps

against "rampant" caste discrimination in universities and higher educational institutions.

The two urged the court to order strict enforcement of and compliance with the UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012.

IN MEMORIAM



G. Kasturi

17-12-1924 — 21-09-2012

Punjab firm's factory attached for bank fraud

NEW DELHI
The ED has provisionally attached the plant and machinery, worth ₹234.11 crore, of Kudos Chemie Ltd. in Punjab in a bank fraud case. The action follows the registration of a FIR by the CBI against the company and its directors Jitendra Singh and Gurmeet Sodhi.

A fourth of Indians consider dementia 'dangerous'

Three fourths of those surveyed term patients impulsive and unpredictable

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Almost a quarter of Indians surveyed said that they considered those suffering from dementia to be "dangerous" and about three-fourths said that those with dementia are "impulsive and unpredictable," according to a report released by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI), a London-based non-profit organisation.

The survey by the London School of Economics (LSE) was meant to gauge attitudes towards dementia among the general public, health practitioners and care givers and surveyed about 70,000 people in 155 countries.

Some of those surveyed were dementia patients.

The study estimates that as much as 50% of all people living with dementia never receive a formal diagnosis and in China and India, this lack of diagnosis is much higher, perhaps as high as 70-90%.

The number of those with dementia worldwide is set to increase to 152 million by 2050, according to the report. The current annual cost of dementia is estimated at \$1 trillion (approximately), a figure that is set to double by 2030.

"In the survey analysis, we highlight the behavioural element first, giving promi-



Almost 50% of all people living with dementia never receive a formal diagnosis. ■ISTOCKPHOTO

nence to the voices and experiences of people living with dementia as direct assessment of actual behaviour is central to discrimination and is the closest representation of the true impact of stigma on people living with dementia," wrote the auth-

ors of the report.

Population projections in India suggest that there will be one elderly person for every 3 in the working-age population by 2100 and a concomitant rise in elderly suffering from dementia as the prevalence of dementia

in the elderly increases, according to a 2018 report in the Indian Journal of Psychiatry.

The ADI report, made public on Friday on the eve of Alzheimer's Day, finds that 95% of global respondents think they will develop dementia in their lifetime and 78% are concerned about developing dementia at some point.

One in 4 believe that there is nothing you can do about dementia and 2 out of 3 think dementia is caused by normal ageing. Just under 40% of the public think that there are adequate community services for people living with dementia and for carers and just under 70% of people think there are adequate competent physicians for the diagnosis and treatment of dementia.

SC modifies recommendation on Kureshi after govt's letters

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium has modified its May 10 recommendation to appoint Justice A.A. Kureshi as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, after the government sent two consecutive letters asking it to reconsider the proposal.

In a resolution dated September 5 and published on Friday, the Collegium led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, has now recommended the appointment of Jus-

tice Kureshi as the Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court. Justice Kureshi is the senior most judge of the Guj-

arat High Court.

The Collegium resolution does not disclose any reason for the sudden change. It only says the modification is based on two communications, dated August 23 and August 27, from the government.

The resolution comes shortly before a three-judge Bench led by the CJI is to hear on September 23 a petition filed by the Gujarat High Court Advocates Association on the prolonged uncertainty over Justice Kureshi.

Cash seized from Trinamool MP's house

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized ₹32 lakh in cash and foreign exchange worth \$10,000 from the official residence of Trinamool Congress MP K.D. Singh in Delhi.

"Searches were carried out on Thursday at seven locations in Delhi and Chandigarh, including the offices of 14 group companies of Alchemist Group related to, and controlled by, Mr. Singh," the ED said.

The ED said several documents "reflecting circular nature of transactions, digital evidence and property documents" have been seized.

Mr. Singh - through Alchemist Township India Limited and Alchemist Holdings Limited - had raised huge amounts of money from thousands of customers in the garb of investments by offering them high returns and also against sale of plots and flats, the agency said.

Dr. NTR UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES: A.P: VIJAYAWADA-8.

NOTIFICATION
Online applications from NEET Rank holders for BAMS, BHMS and BNYS Courses in Management Quota for AYUSH Colleges in Andhra Pradesh for the academic year 2019-20 from 11.00 A.M on 21.09.2019 upto 5.00 P.M on 27.09.2019 are invited. For online application visit: <http://bnuhsq.apnic.in>

Date: 20.09.2019

Sd/- REGISTRAR

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NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

against "rampant" caste discrimination in universities and higher educational institutions.

The two urged the court to order strict enforcement of and compliance with the UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY		WEATHER WATCH	
TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)		WEATHER WATCH	
City	Rain	Max	Min
Agartala	—	35.5	26.6
Ahmedabad	0.3	34.0	25.6
Aizawl	51	31.5	21.7
Allahabad	—	33.9	26.9
Bengaluru	—	28.2	20.6
Bhopal	6.4	31.3	22.8
Bhubaneswar	—	32.7	24.9
Chandigarh	—	31.4	23.7
Chennai	7.3	31.6	25.3
Coimbatore	—	33.0	23.5
Dehradoon	2.2	33.3	21.7
Gangtok	18.5	22.6	16.1
Goa	12.7	29.0	23.8
Guwahati	—	36.0	25.1
Hubballi	—	28.0	21.0
Hyderabad	15.7	30.8	23.1
Jaipur	—	32.2	23.9
Kochi	3.6	30.8	24.8
Kohima	—	25.6	17.7
Kolkata	—	34.9	27.0
Lucknow	—	31.2	29.5
Mumbai	16	34	29.7
Nagaland	—	33.5	25.4
Narmada	—	32.2	21.8
Patna	—	34.8	26.4
Port Blair	—	24.6	28.6
Puducherry	—	30.3	23.6
Pune	—	38.0	22.1
Rajkot	—	33.5	25.4
Ranchi	—	32.2	21.8
Shillong	—	24.0	16.0
Shimla	—	32.2	14.7
Srinagar	—	27.5	13.9
Tiruchi	—	29.4	30.4
Vijayawada	—	35.3	28.0
Visakhapatnam	9.6	32.0	26.4
Temperature Data in mm; temperature in Celsius			
Pollutants in the air you are breathing			
Cities	SO ₂	NO _x	CO PM _{2.5} PM ₁₀ Code
Ahmedabad	88	108	151 ... 37 61 ■■■
Bengaluru	.9	.49	.86 ... 94 ■■■



A deep cut

Tax cuts have enthused Corporate India, but there is the fiscal problem to deal with

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman ushered in Deepavali early for Corporate India and the markets on Friday with her announcement of deep cuts in corporate taxes and roll-back of some market-unfriendly proposals in the Budget she presented in July. The move to cut corporate taxes, for which an ordinance has already been issued by the government, is on a par with if not higher than the sentiment-boosting 'dream budget' of 1997 when the then Finance Minister P. Chidambaram cut taxes with gusto. Corporate tax rate has been cut to 22% from 30% for companies that do not avail exemptions – this means that the effective tax rate for such companies will fall from 34.94% presently to 25.17% which is a significant saving indeed. Similarly, for companies that are incorporated after October 1 and whose projects will be commissioned before March 31, 2023, the tax rate will be as low as 15% (compared to 25% currently). The effective tax rate for this category of companies will be 17.01%, about 12 percentage points lower than what prevails now. The idea behind this move is obviously to generate private investment which is now at a low ebb, but an unstated intention could also be to attract foreign investors looking for alternative sites for their global value chains disrupted now by the tariff war between China and the U.S. With these cuts, the government has delivered on a long-standing demand of Corporate India. The onus is now on the latter to deliver, not just in terms of fresh investment but also in passing on the benefit of lower taxes down the chain to consumers and investors.

Where do the tax cuts leave the government and the fisc? Ms. Sitharaman said that the revenue foregone is ₹145,000 crore. This is very significant, especially in the context of the over-estimation of revenues in the Budget and the under-performance in terms of tax collections so far this year. The 2019-20 Budget assumes net tax revenues of ₹16.49 lakh crore, which is a rather ambitious 25% growth estimate over the actual revenues of ₹13.16 lakh crore in 2018-19. If the revenue foregone now is weighed against this unrealistic Budget target on which the fiscal arithmetic is based, the outlook for the projected deficit this year will be scary for sure. It is a no-brainer that the deficit target of 3.3% for this fiscal is unattainable, as things stand. The bounty of ₹7.5 lakh crore received from the Reserve Bank of India as dividend is obviously a cushion and it is this money that the government has now given away. But if the fiscal deficit target is to be met, then the gap from the original over-estimation of revenues has to be bridged. The one route open to the government is to go big on disinvestment where it has already budgeted ₹105,000 crore for this year. The actual proceeds should be about double that this fiscal if the original arithmetic is to work. That is not going to be easy. The corporate tax cuts are certainly good for the economy in the medium term but in the short term, until revenues bounce back, the government has a fiscal problem on its hands.

A rural stimulus

Putting more money in the hands of rural households will stir up the economy

The government's statistical machinery has begun work on revising the indices that capture the trends in consumer prices experienced in rural India. This opens up the prospect for an upward revision in the wages paid out to workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The current national average wage is just about ₹178 per day. The decision to finally embark on a long-overdue exercise is welcome, irrespective of the immediate trigger. The basket of items whose prices are tracked for constructing the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL), for instance, has not been updated for at least three decades. Apart from essential spending on food, rural expenditure patterns have altered significantly in the intervening period, making space for higher spending on services such as education, transport and, of course, telecom. But two-thirds of the dated inflation index is still driven by food prices, which may effectively end up understating the price pressures facing rural households. This depressant effect could be accentuated when low food inflation coincides with decelerating farm incomes that still drive India's rural economy. Once a new basket is constructed, the Statistics Ministry, along with the Labour Bureau, plans to improve the currency of the CPI-AL (to which MGNREGA wages are linked) and CPI-Rural indices with annual reviews.

If the index revision concludes soon enough, the Centre is geared up to notify updated MGNREGA wages in the current fiscal year itself rather than wait for the onset of 2020-2021. This sense of urgency suggests the government views giving a fillip to the rural economy as a critical tool to combat the headwinds of the slowing economy. The slowdown narrative (and the Centre's measures to address it) so far has been dominated by urban India's consumption crimp and easing the corporate tax structure, but the distress in villages where incomes are more vulnerable is more disconcerting. The Reserve Bank of India, in its annual report, has pointed to weakening rural demand since the third quarter of 2018-19 as a serious concern and termed reviving consumption as its top policy priority. Reflecting rural distress, demand for work under the MGNREGA has been rising. With job creation in a flux and sentiment about the economy worsening, any move to put more money into rural households' 'sticky' spending kitty would likely have a better pay-off towards stirring up the economy than shopping fests and tax sops for urban India.

One people, many countries

The Indian American gathering in Houston will be an unlikely reminder of the futility of the claims of ultra-nationalism



VARGHESE K. GEORGE

Around 50,000 Indian Americans are expected to attend a rally in Houston, Texas on September 22 to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump, current leaders of the world's largest and oldest democracies. In multiple dimensions, this event will showcase the paradoxes in the politics of the two protagonists and their primary audience, the Indian American community. The event might spur self-reflection among some, but could harden the positions for many and sharpen the polarisation in the community.

Many of the attendees at the rally would have taken the oath of allegiance to become U.S. citizens, in which they are required to "absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign... state", where they were citizens earlier – in this case, India. The rest will be largely those waiting for the opportunity to "voluntarily" do so. They will be singing 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', salutations to the motherland which is India, as it had happened at earlier gatherings of the Indian diaspora in the U.S. and elsewhere addressed by Mr. Modi.

Contours of a project

Naturalisation requires one to abjure allegiance to a foreign country, but America allows dual citizenship. Though India does not allow dual citizenship, the societies in both countries are largely accepting of multiple identities. However, Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi lead politics that seeks to assert and privilege a national identity by subordinating particularities, and

rebuild their nations into puritan, unitary communities. This project also involves, in both countries, a massive state drive to identify, isolate, detain and possibly expel people who are suspected to be intruders into the nation. The India of Mr. Modi's Hindutva dreams, advancing rapidly under his rule, will be "one nation" with one people, one language, one religion, one election, one market, and one everything – a homogeneous, Hindu utopia. The Houston rally could be an opportunity for both leaders to see up close the fallacy of this pursuit. It will be one people cheering leaders of two countries that they divide their loyalty for. The irony is that Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump ride populism that targets various minorities for fractured loyalties.

Politics within and outside

Seeking absolute and unalloyed loyalty to the nation from the entire population, expressed as unquestioning fealty to the regime, is the fulcrum of Mr. Modi's politics within India, but abroad he seeks and encourages the Indian diaspora to maintain dual loyalties – for India and their host countries. He wants to influence American politics through spectacular shows of his popularity among American citizens who are being called upon to further the interests of India. Adulation and endorsement in the U.S. will amplify Mr. Modi's support in India. Mr. Trump is using Mr. Modi's popularity among Indian Americans to advance his domestic politics of undermining American pluralism; and the Hindutva champions, who are at the helm of diaspora politics in the U.S., are helping his cause, harming their self-interest.

Mr. Trump has taken a leaf out of the book of their common friend and the leader of the only democracy in West Asia, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who tried to use his projected proximity with Russian President Vladimir Putin to drum up sup-



port for himself among Russian-speaking Israeli citizens in his re-election bid. He lost.

Indian American Hindutva groups, largely upper caste Indians, are advocates of minority rights in the U.S., but simultaneously and contradictorily supportive or uncritical of cultural supremacism and majoritarianism in India. Mr. Modi's followers in the U.S. want American Democrats to fight back Mr. Trump's cultural supremacism that belittles them and their culture. They demand as a right, the American green card and passport, and the Modi government has supported such claims for more opportunities for Indians in bilateral talks with the U.S. But they want American Democrats to keep their mouths shut about the rights of those living in India for generations – whether in Kashmir or those who are arbitrarily being asked to prove their citizenship though they never took an oath abjuring and renouncing India. India-friendly voices in American politics are under attack by Hindutva groups in the U.S. for speaking up for constitutionalism and pluralism in India. Hindutva groups in the U.S. even want Indian American Democratic lawmakers to subordinate American interests to India's.

Ro Khanna, U.S. Representative from California's 17th Congressional District, located in the heart of Silicon Valley, is being singled out by these groups for his association with the Pakistan Caucus, as if they are fighting the India-Pakistan rivalry in America. Mr. Khanna is an unequivocal and strong supporter of a pluralist America, and

India-U.S. ties, and for the same reason rejects Hindutva and its exclusive nationalism.

Hyphenated identities

Multiple identities and split loyalties are part of human existence. Mature societies and evolved partners recognise this fact. America has a fraught history of dealing with suspected disloyalty among its people. Japanese Americans, Italian Americans, German Americans were at various points in its history subjected to treatment that no reasonable American today defends. American citizens of Japanese descent were imprisoned during the Second World War. America's ceaseless global military involvement has been one main reason for this fate of the country's hyphenated citizens, but the upcoming detention centres in India for residents of suspect citizenship have nothing to do with war, unless one is being planned.

Hyphenated identities have sat well within Indian nationalism and one could be a Malayali or Tamil or Kashmiri and still be Indian with all rights and privilege until the recent upsurge of Hindutva began to advocate the pre-eminence of a Hindu-Hindi, religious-linguistic framework for its unitary project. In Houston, it will be Malayali Indian Americans and Tamil Indian Americans cheering, knowing not what exactly they are cheering. Muslim Indian Americans have been largely expelled from the community already, and the Indian Embassy in Washington DC has even stopped the practice of the annual Eid reception since Mr. Modi became the Prime Minister.

Racial and cultural supremacism is often premised on claims of a group being early occupants of a place. Mr. Trump has asked his minority critics to 'go back to where they came from'. Hindutva considers Islam and Christianity foreign to India; India is in the process of changing the law to grant

citizenship to non-Muslim foreigners if they are persecuted in their home countries. The National Register of Citizens, now being implemented only in Assam categorises lakhs of Muslims and Hindus as foreigners, and the exercise is set to be expanded to other parts of the country. The new law will open a route to citizenship to Hindus, while Muslims will be at the risk of detention and deportation. While all this is going on, new genetic and archaeological studies have established beyond doubt that the Vedic heritage of India owes its origins in the intermingling of immigrants from Central Asian Steppe – Aryas – with earlier inhabitants, and the Harappan people lived before the Vedas. The notion of an indigenous religion or civilisation as opposed to foreign ones in the current context, therefore, is spurious. America is a nation of immigrants, but then so is India. India is also a significant source of immigrants for many countries and Indians currently form the largest diaspora in the world.

But ultra-nationalism overlooks these facets of human progress and arrives at bizarrely contradictory positions in its attempt to purify and consolidate the community. It seeks to forcibly integrate those who are reticent and protective of their distinctions. At the same time, it seeks to evict those who are desperate to stay in. And a section of these ultra-nationalists are also desperate to move to a different country while they support the simultaneous forced integration and forced expulsions of populations in the land they have abandoned or seek to abandon. In Houston, this thought must hopefully cross the minds of the audience that has only partly left India and partly arrived in America while listening to two leaders whose politics centres around the archaic question of 'who got here first'.

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An independent fiscal watchdog for Parliament

A Parliament Budget Office can help drive smarter, more focused debate in the media and with the electorate



VARUN SRIVATSAN

When most people arrive at the ballot box, they vote with their gut. But getting there requires absorbing and shaping months and years of conversations, long-held opinions and ideally, hard facts and evidence.

What is then important for our electorate and the representatives we vote for is that they have an independent, non-partisan source for these hard facts and evidence. This is particularly important for our Parliament, which controls where and how money flows into our government and our country. This body needs to be appointed not based on political allegiance or expediency, but on its expertise in budgetary, fiscal and economic matters.

Regardless of a majority or minority government, this body serves parliamentarians equally and without prejudice. Even in a majority government, besides the few Ministers privy to expertise from the civil service, most parliamentarians do not benefit from timely access to good quality analysis on economic, fiscal or financial matters.

This body exists in many coun-

tries around the world, going by many names but most commonly as Parliamentary Budget Offices (PBOs). These bodies help shape the debate and discourse around the state of the nation's finances and the fiscal implications of significant proposals. The work done by PBOs naturally ends up in the public sphere; when they do, they help drive smarter, more focused debate in the media and with our electorate.

What distinguishes India's democracy, besides its diversity of views and opinions wrought by its size, is its ability to evolve and remain dynamic. What is gravely in danger is evidence-based discussion around important policies that affect the trajectory of our Republic, discussions which can quickly blur the line between fact and fiction.

Defence costing

Take an example: the Rafale deal with Dassault Aviation. Part of the controversy resulted from uncertainty regarding the true lifecycle costs of the aircraft bought. In 2011, the Canadian PBO released a cost estimate for Canada's purchase of F-35 jets. This estimate far exceeded the one presented by the Department of National Defence.

Defence costing, typically the

purview of the Defence Ministry, was a completely new area of analysis, information and research that parliamentarians could now

access to hold the government to account. Besides costing policies and programmes, PBOs provide significant and sometimes the sole source of information on fiscal and economic projections.

The role of such an office does not always mean challenging the government; it is often the case that economic and fiscal projections of a PBO and the Ministry of Finance are similar. This is unsurprising as data sources and economic methodologies for such projections are well established and uniform.

However, without the existence of another data point, generated by an independent, non-partisan office, it is difficult for parliamentarians to ensure that these projections and estimates continue to be reliable enough for them to make decisions on.

When these projections come into question, the Cabinet can tap the civil service for further research and analysis. Most parliamentarians do not have this luxu-

ry and may have to rely on poor quality third-party data and analysis, done without relevant expertise. This is a situation that must be avoided.

Co-existing with the AG

A question – and a reasonable one – that often arises is the necessity of such an office when we already have an auditor general. However, this misunderstands the role the auditor general performs, which is to provide retrospective audits and analysis of the financial accounts and performance of government operations.

These audits are often focused on the day-to-day goings on of government, and often hone in on the performance of the civil service. A PBO provides prospective, forward-looking economic and fiscal projections, as well as policy costings. This distinguishes it from an auditor general, which provides useful information, but only after the fact.

Internationally, similar offices have been established across the world, with the most prominent being the Congressional Budget Office in the United States which provides impartial advice to both upper and lower houses of the legislature. Offices in the Netherlands, Korea, Australia and the United Kingdom have also been established for varying lengths of time. PBOs are also making an appearance in emerging economies in Sub-Saharan Africa and South-

east Asia.

In some countries, including Australia, the Netherlands, and most recently, Canada, PBOs have been playing the unique role of costing electoral platforms during an election campaign. In this period, PBOs provide independent cost estimates of electoral platform measures to political parties.

A PBO, or a similar independent fiscal institution, will not solve all these problems but is a relatively cost-efficient way to arrive at a solution. As the process toward the Union Budget 2020 has already kicked off, it would be prudent for parliamentarians to examine the case for a PBO more deeply.

The amount of information parliamentarians need to scrutinise in Budget documents has exponentially increased and a PBO would assist parliamentarians in this process of scrutiny.

Legislatures across the world have witnessed an increasingly stronger executive try to wrest away its rightful power of the purse. A PBO would help resuscitate these powers that have fallen into disuse. This is why India's Parliament and government need to work quickly and energetically to establish such an office; it is in everyone's interests to do so.

Varun Srivatsan works with the Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer in Ottawa, Canada. The views expressed are personal and do not represent the views of any other organisation

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Rebuilding J&K

It is pleasing to hear the new slogan that has been coined on Kashmir: 'Naya Kashmir banana hai' (Page 1, "Hug each Kashmiri, build new paradise", September 20). But "when" is the moot question. If one is to go by some of the coverage on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, this seems very unlikely in the near future. The reports in the inside pages are proof of this ("Now, schools turn recreation centres" and "J&K global investors' summit put off", both September 20). When children are affected, there will be a corresponding impact on their future. Kashmir must become the

paradise it is fabled to be but in a transparent, inclusive way.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

■ The official pronouncements have not been backed by tangible improvements in Valley. It is for the government to ensure some good tidings and as long as it is found wanting, people find it hard to believe the official versions. The speech in Nashik appears to be a feeble attempt to drum up support for the upcoming State Assembly election.

ABDUL ASSIS P.A.,
Thrissur, Kerala

■ New paradises are not built overnight. It takes years and

years to build them. In fact, paradises are not built per se. They evolve through a natural process. The Prime Minister should have tried to influence that natural process. In the case of Kashmir, the only way to make it a paradise is to give it some semblance of independence. Our Constitution can accommodate Kashmiriyat.

C.V. VENUGOPALAN,
Palakkad, Kerala

■ The intent to build a new Kashmir – which can truly be the paradise it is famed to be – would have been more convincing had steps been taken before the major surgery. Having carried out the sudden and drastic

operation, appeasement and the healing will be a long-drawn-out and complicated process.

PREETHA SALIL,
Mumbai

■ The lending of soft loans with undesirable relaxations in lending norms of banks could prove to be disastrous to the banking industry which is already in turmoil. The aggressive campaign and loan melas by commercial

banks could push people even with weak financial profiles to become the debtors and eventually become defaulters that can only add to mounting non-performing assets. Banks will

become the casualty. The stimulus packages and soft loans to boost the economy can be termed piecemeal solutions at best.

N. SADHASIVA REDDY,
Bangalore

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N. SADHASIVA REDDY,
Bangalore

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CORRECTIONS & CL

A lake in the cross-hairs of development

Residents of four high-rise apartment complexes along the Vembanad lake in Maradu, Kerala, are protesting against a recent Supreme Court order to raze down their homes, reportedly built in flagrant violation of CRZ guidelines. **K.S. Sudhi** chronicles the controversy

Following a Supreme Court ultimatum in early September, life has taken an unexpected turn for I. Balachandran, 63, and Parvathy, 55, a sprightly couple who were leading a sedate life at a premium luxury river-view apartment in Maradu, Ernakulam. The duo turned protesters probably for the first time in their lives on September 6, the day the order came, to protect their dwelling at Alfa Serene, an apartment complex on the banks of the Vembanad lake, a wetland designated under the Ramsar Convention.

The apex court's directive called for the demolition of the complex, and of three other high-rise residential structures, by September 20, for violating Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) guidelines. Following the ruling, the couple, along with 350 other families, have been plunged into deep gloom.

The order came as a rude shock not just to residents living in the four complexes – Alfa Serene, Holy Faith H2O, Jain Coral Cove and Golden Kayaloram – all built along the lake in the Maradu municipality, but also to the State government. The Supreme Court judges, annoyed with the non-implementation of earlier court orders, asked the Kerala government to complete the task by September 20 and file a report on September 23, when the court is to consider the case again.

Protests and rallies

Following the directive, Balachandran and Parvathy, along with the other affected residents, have begun organising themselves to impress upon the State government that they have done no wrong. Every day at 8.30 a.m., they join other protesters at H2O Holy Faith. From shouting slogans to meeting political leaders paying a visit in solidarity and giving sound bytes to TV cameras and interacting with journalists, they spend their day at the apartment's portico, which has come to resemble the venue of a public agitation. It is at around 8.30 p.m. that they retire to their home, at the close of a tiring day of shouting slogans. Flags of all political parties are seen stuck on the imposing 10-feet tall gates of the flat complex. Those conducting political rallies in solidarity with the residents converge here, with fiery speeches electrifying the environment.

"Hands off my home," cries the badge that Parvathy has pinned to her cream-coloured dupatta. "The rhythm of our life has changed dramatically over the last few days and I am unable to focus on my business. Most part of the day is spent here, participating in the agitation, garnering support from the general public and political parties and discussing the strategies with others who too are facing the same threat," says Balachandran.

"There has not been any outing, entertainment, or even laughter in our lives since the court verdict," laments Parvathy, sitting on the steps of the apartment on a windy afternoon. "We fully respect the Supreme Court verdict but believe that the judgment is the outcome of an erroneous report. We are innocent buyers who are frightened about losing our homes for no fault of ours," says Balachandran.

Riding on the demand for waterfront apartments in the early years of the millennium, many builders constructed complexes on the banks of rivers and lakes in Kerala, often in blatant violation of environmental guidelines and laws that govern development activities in the ecologically sensitive coastal belt. The Supreme Court's order suggests that it cannot be business as usual anymore for the developers. If the floods of last year dented the quest for such structures, the apex court order this year has caused thousands of families that have set up their homes in high-rises close to water bodies across the State to press the panic button.

Following the ultimatum, the Maradu high-rises seem to have become a talking point and the State government has been left with the constitutional obligation to execute the order. This unprecedented development has also brought together almost all political parties in Kerala who feel that a humane approach is needed when dealing with the demolition order.

From the State secretary of the ruling CPI(M) to MPs and MLAs of various political shades, all have thrown their weight behind the apartment owners. However, former Chief Minister and veteran CPI(M) leader V.S. Achuthanandan, former State Congress president V.M. Sudheeran and CPI State secretary Kanam Rajendran have struck a different note, demanding the strict implementation of the order and action against the erring builders.

As discussions on the issue dominate the State's social and political spaces, the residents of the apartments have defied the eviction notice served by the Maradu municipality and resolved not to move out. Some have even threatened to end their lives if their homes are demolished, making it a volatile issue for the authorities.



The Holy Faith H2O apartment complex, located along the Vembanad lake. The building's portico has become the meeting point for residents protesting against the Supreme Court order. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

Noted filmmaker Blessy, a resident of Holy Faith H2O, who is originally from Thiruvalla, bought his apartment here as most of the work related to the film industry was taking place in the city [Kochi]. However, unlike most apartment owners, who bought directly from the builders, Blessy bought his flat from a long-time acquaintance.

"Before buying it, I got all the documents vetted by a lawyer. Some of the banks had also issued loans for other apartments in the building. I checked the legal status of the buildings with Major Ravi, another filmmaker who was the president of the association of the residents. He too gave the green signal and I purchased it," says Blessy. "The Maradu municipality had issued all the relevant certificates. I had also been paying the property tax. One tends to count on these certificates as proof of the genuineness and the legal validity of the structures," explains the filmmaker.

"We had no inkling of the legal tangles until news about the court cases began trickling in," says Shamsudheen Karunagapally, a lawyer coordinating the protests. "Would anyone knowingly pay for a building that is likely to invite invite legal trouble for its residents?" he asks. Interestingly, the list of owners of these structures includes some lawyers, who are also now actively involved in defending their homes from being destroyed. The residents are knocking all doors in their desperate efforts to save their homes and have appealed to the President, the Prime Minister, the Kerala Governor, and MPs and MLAs from the State, seeking their intervention.

Legal battle on since 2007

It all began in 2007 when the Maradu panchayat, which was later elevated to a municipality, issued a show-cause notice to five builders, citing violations of CRZ norms, Flood Area Ratio and other rules. The vigilance wing of the Local Self Government Department of the State government had detected anomalies in the issue of building permits and directed the local body to revoke the permits. When the case reached the Kerala High Court the same year, a Single Judge allowed a writ petition filed by the builders. Later, a Division Bench ruled that the builders could not be taken to task for not referring the building applications to Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority (KCZMA) for a 'No-Objection Certificate' – a mandatory clearance. Though the Authority sought to review the decision, the High Court didn't entertain it.

It was a Special Leave Petition filed by the KCZMA in the Supreme Court against the Kerala High Court's order that turned out to be the game-changer in Kerala, whose 580-km long coastline is dotted with thousands of construction

tions including homes, hotels, commercial buildings and resorts.

Incidentally, the Supreme Court had, in 2013, highlighted the ecological importance of the Vembanad lake system in a verdict in which it upheld a decision of the Kerala High Court to demolish some illegal constructions made along the lake. Following the decision, a resort on the Vettilla Thuruthu – an island in the lake – demolished parts of its structure identified as illegal. The case of Kapico resorts, another massive structure erected on the Nediyathru island in the lake, is still pending.

The court had then observed that the lake was "undergoing severe environmental degradation due to increased human intervention."

Suo motu action

Initiating suo motu action, the court remarked that "there has been large-scale encroachment and illegal constructions are going on in violation of the CRZ notifications." It also issued a notice to various agencies, including the State Pollution Control Board, seeking explanation on the steps taken to "implement CRZ [regulations], in the lake and [on] the islands as a whole". The notice also asked the agencies to spell out what has been done to avert pollution and restore the illegally reclaimed banks of the lake.

"The collusion of some local body officials with the violators and encroachers has resulted in the Maradu situation where a large number of purchasers are now being pushed out of their homes," feels B. Madhusoodana Kurup, former Vice-Chancellor of the Kerala University for Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, Kochi. The civic authorities of Maradu turned a blind eye to the letters and reminders from the KCZMA asking them to abide by the CRZ rules and send the building applications for clearance. If the directions had been implemented,



In 2014, nearly 5,000 suspected cases of CRZ violations were identified in structures bordering the Vembanad lake using satellite images

K.V. THOMAS,
Scientist

to physically verify the violations, they didn't take up the task," says Thomas, who had served as an expert member on several committees formed by the Authority. He also points out that an earlier direction from the Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change to identify and report the CRZ violations was also ignored by the local bodies.

Defending the cause of the four builders, Mathew Kurian, the lawyer who represented them in the Kerala High Court, holds the Authority solely responsible for the current fiasco. If at all there were violations or irregularities as alleged, the Authority, which has been in the courts since 2007, should have pointed it out. All the developments were taking place in front of its eyes and it didn't respond to it, he alleges.

Regarding the 'No Objection Certificate' that the builders were expected to obtain from the KCZMA before proceeding with construction, Kurian says it was the responsibility of Maradu municipality and not the project proponents to send the files for clearance.

The Maradu developments have also triggered a sudden interest in another case in which the apex court let off the builder, DLF Universal Limited, which had constructed an apartment structure along the eastern banks of the Chilavannoor lake – an extension of Vembanad lake – with a fine of ₹1 crore.

While the Kerala High Court had initially ordered the demolition of parts of the building for violating the CRZ norms, the court's Division Bench later

limited the punishment to a fine. The Supreme Court, which upheld the Division Bench's decision, slammed the KCZMA for its inaction in the case. The Authority "cannot wash its hands off by giving an explanation for inaction as the alleged absence of an enforcement force." Had it played its role, the violations would not have happened, the court noted.

However, an official of the Authority feels that the two cases aren't comparable as DLF had applied for CRZ and environmental clearances from the State government. But, in the Maradu case, no one had ever applied for a clearance, he says.

He also dismisses the argument made by some builders that once the more accommodative provisions of the CRZ 2019 notification become applicable, new buildings could be constructed at the same site after demolishing the existing buildings. Such construction can only be along the building line of a structure which was authorised and constructed before February 19, 1991, the cut-off date specified in the 2011 notification, he points out.

While earlier, Maradu was a 'panchayat' and hence fell under CRZ-III, at present, it is a 'municipality' (developed area) and comes under CRZ-II, applicable for urban areas. As per the 2011 norms, construction is allowed under CRZ-II areas towards the landward side of the authorised buildings or roads approved and completed before February 19, 1991.

A fast-shrinking lake

Man-made interventions have taken a toll on the fast-shrinking Vembanad lake, which supports an ecosystem that has sustained life in the three districts of Ernakulam, Alappuzha, and Kottayam. The lake is receding at an estimated rate of 0.288 sq. km each year, says P.K. Dinesh Kumar, scientist-in-charge of the National Institute of Oceanography, Kochi. The spread of the lake, around 130.68 sq. km, in 1967, reduced to 9.382 sq. km in 2004 and 3.292 sq. km in 2011, he points out.

There have been encroachments for agricultural expansion, aquaculture, large engineering structures, harbour development and tourism.

The Kerala government, after being pulled up by the apex court, has obtained a demolition impact assessment report from the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, which has cautioned it about the possible environmental impact of bringing the buildings down, including contamination of the lake due to debris.

The local body, says T.H. Nadeera, the chairperson of Maradu municipality, will wait for instructions from the State government in the case. "We are waiting for the directions," she says.

It would be a crisis of an unprecedented nature, with constitutional, ecological and humanitarian implications, that the State government may have to tackle if it fails to satisfy the Supreme Court's instructions as the latter takes up the case on Monday. For now, the critically vulnerable coastal area of Vembanad lake is in the cross-hairs of development and politics.



The Alfa Serene apartment complex. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

We fully respect the Supreme Court verdict but believe that the judgment is the outcome of an erroneous report. We are innocent buyers who are frightened about losing our homes for no fault of ours

I. BALACHANDRAN
Maradu resident

FROM PAGE ONE

No GST relief for automobiles, biscuits

"This was a long and productive meeting with many issues that had been awaiting resolution, having been resolved," said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who chaired the Council meet.

The GST rate on hotel rooms with tariffs above ₹7,500 per day, which is presently 28%, has been reduced to 18%, while the tax on rooms with a transaction value of ₹1001 to ₹7,500 per day will be 12%, down from 18% currently. Similarly, the rate on outdoor catering

Draft rules to regulate social media ready'

After recording the submission, the judges, in a lighter vein, said they hoped the Central government would take the same stand before the Supreme Court, which was seized of a plea by Facebook to transfer the case.

Passing interim orders on August 20, the Supreme Court had restrained the High Court from passing any "effective order" in the case.

Additional Government Pleader E. Manoharan told the Division Bench that the State government had filed an application to get the Supreme Court's interim order vacated and that it had been listed for hearing on September 24. Deciding to await its outcome, the Bench adjourned its hearing to October 1.

During the hearing, senior counsel M.S. Krishnan, representing Twitter, urged the court to replace 'Twitter Inclusive', which runs the operations in the U.S. alone, with 'Twitter International Company', which manages the business of the social media giant across the world but for the U.S., in the list of respondents to the case. The judges accepted the request.

J&K panel to probe illegal detention of children

The petition referred to the "illegal detention of children in Kashmir as reported in the media and seeking judicial intervention in the matter". It wanted the court to direct the government to file a status report and order the Juvenile Justice Committee to monitor incidents of detention.

"With regard to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, there have been certain reports specific to children, which describe violations of very different kinds, ranging in seriousness from potential loss of life and liberty of the child to being emotionally drawn into the conflict," it said. The plea submitted that the reports were serious enough to merit judicial review of the situation and enforce and monitor certain immediate corrective action.

"The areas of concern as gleaned from reportage in mainstream newspapers are thus: the first pertains to illegal [if temporary] detention [and in some cases beatings] of young boys by security forces. The second concerns serious injuries and deaths of children, deliberate or accidental," it said.

Two-year-old killed as ambulance hits truck

The officer said Mr. Pal claimed that he told the ambulance driver that he looked sleepy, but the latter insisted he wasn't.

DCP Singh said a case has been registered and police teams are looking for the truck driver. "According to the ambulance driver and eyewitnesses, the truck was stopped by a transport enforcement team suddenly after crossing the DND toll. After the accident, both the truck driver and the enforcement team fled the spot," he said.

Shah holds North Zonal Council meeting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The 29th Northern Zonal Council meeting here on Friday saw member States deliberating on issues such as drug addiction, water sharing, rehabilitation of dam oustees and hurdles post the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax.

services in premises other than hotels with a daily tariff of ₹7,501 or more, has been reduced from 18% at present (with input tax credits) to 5% without these credits.

The tax on caffeinated beverages has been raised from 18% to 28% with an additional compensation cess of 12%, in a bid to deter their consumption. While this brings the tax on such beverages on par with aerated drinks, the Council has decided to disallow firms that make the latter from joining the Composition scheme.

Rahul links tax cuts to Modi's U.S. visit

Amazing what PM is ready to do for a stock market bump ahead of tour... no event can hide the reality'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress and the two major Left parties have slammed the corporate tax cuts announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday.

Linking it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the United States, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said the move was aimed at pushing up the stock market ahead of Mr. Modi's tour to the U.S., where he is expected to meet many foreign investors.

Mr. Gandhi tweeted, "Amazing what PM is ready to do for a stock market bump during his #HowdyIndianEconomy jamboree. At +1.4 Lakh crore Rs the Houston event is the world's most expensive event, ever! But, no event can hide the reality of the economic mess 'HowdyModi' has driven India into."

At a press conference, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the move also indicated the government's "lack of confidence or a vote of no-confidence in its own Budget proposals" that was passed by Parliament recently.

The Congress asked if the ₹1.45 lakh crore of revenue that the government was willing to forego from corporates would be recovered from the salaried and common people in the form of higher taxes and cess.

"Can the experimental Prime Minister and the greenhorn Finance Minister tell the nation as to where will the resources to compensate the revenue loss of ₹1.45,000 crore come from? Will they come by taxing the common man and the farmer in shape of taxes on petrol, diesel, electricity and

other household products" asked Mr. Surjewala.

"Will they use their own tested model of bleeding the profit making PSUs like the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) as they did in the case of the RBI by divesting it of ₹1.76 lakh crore to fill up the resource gap in this year's budget?", he said.

Mr. Surjewala asserted that almost the entire Budget proposals presented by the Finance Minister and approved by Parliament "have either been rejected or amended or rolled back over last one month".

"Does it not mean a near total rejection of its own budget and budgetary proposals by this government reflecting the greenhorn attitude to tackling the economic crisis," he asked.

'Salaried class ignored'
Mr. Surjewala also questioned why the salaried class and lower income groups have not been given tax relief as that would have helped in increasing consumption and purchasing power.

The CPI(M) Polit Bureau, in a statement, said such measures cannot bring a turnaround in the current economic situation. "What is needed is a large dose of public investment to create employment and increase people's purchasing power. The government is pursuing the exact opposite, which is nothing else but loot of Indian money for private corporate benefit and speculative profit," the statement said.

CPI general secretary D. Raja said the move followed the government's pattern of pro-corporate policies. "This government's approach is to please corporate houses and serve their interests alone," he said.



Battle lines drawn: Youth Congress workers staging a protest in New Delhi on Friday against the unemployment rate and the economic slowdown. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Left parties to hold joint protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Five Left parties will hold a joint protest from October 10 to 16 across the nation against the "deepening economic crisis" and "growing unemployment".

The Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Communist Party of India, the Communist Party of India (ML), the All India Forward Bloc and the Revolutionary Socialist Party announced this on Friday at the end of a joint convention.

"The situation is very bad and lives of people are on the verge of destruction. Unemployment is at its highest level in the last 50 years, industries and businesses are ruined and suffering from job losses, agriculture sector is the worst hit with farmers forced to commit suicide," he added.

CPI general secretary D. Raja said the government needed to clarify to which direction it was leading the country to. "The economy is in a shambles. Instead of retrieving it from this deep crisis, the RSS-BJP combine has plunged the country into a political-social crisis," Mr. Raja said, referring to withdrawal of Article 370, mob lynchings and the National Register of Citizens exercise in Assam.

In a joint resolution, the parties have placed seven demands. These include minimum wages of ₹18,000 per month, increased public investment to generate jobs, withdrawing 100 per cent FDI in defence and coal sectors and extending the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme from 100 to 200 days.

Income Tax relief for domestic companies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PANAJI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said here on Friday that a domestic company would be allowed to pay income tax at the rate of 22% (from 30%), subject to the condition that it won't avail any other (tax) incentives or exemptions.

"There will be no Minimum Alternate Tax levied on them and the effective tax rate for such firms will be 25.17%, including all surcharges and cess," the Minister said.

To spur fresh investments and boost Make in India efforts, for new manufacturing companies incorporated after October 1, 2019, and commencing production by March 31, 2023, the income tax rate will be 15%, from 25% at present.

The effective tax rate for these companies will be 17.01%, compared to 29.1% now. These firms will also be exempt from Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT).

"In order to provide relief to firms who want to continue with the existing regime of exemptions, we are giving some MAT relief – the tax rate has been reduced from 18.5% to 15%," the Minister said.

These tax cuts include a reduction in the surcharge on corporate income tax from 12% to 10%, pointed out Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey.

The President has promulgated the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2019 to bring into effect the slew of corporate tax rate cuts announced on Friday.

Will not allow NRC in Bengal, says Mamata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

A day after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the National Register of Citizens (NRC) "would never take place in Bengal."

"Can I produce evidence of the birth of my parents? Then how many ordinary people can produce such certificates?" she asked. Ms Banerjee came under attack from the CPI(M) and the Congress for allegedly "not discussing Bengal NRC" with Mr. Shah.

"We have not discussed it as we will never allow NRC in Bengal," she said. However, she asked the residents of Bengal to "ensure that their names are added to the voter list."

"There is absolutely no reason to get depressed or to develop some fear psychosis, I am your gatekeeper... as long as I am alive no one can touch anyone in Bengal," she said.

BJP set to finalise sharing of seats with Shiv Sena

Party is clear it is the dominant partner in the 'Mahayuthi'

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) hopes to finalise seat sharing arrangements with the Shiv Sena by September 22 or the upcoming weekend, ahead of the Assembly polls in Maharashtra, but is clear that the question of just who is the dominant partner has been settled in its favour.

Senior party sources told *The Hindu* that the alliance with the Shiv Sena, called the 'Mahayuthi', was very much on, but that the seats (number and specific areas) were still being hammered out between the two parties.

Before the two parties had parted ways just before the 2014 Assembly election (later coming together to be partners in the Devendra Fadnavis government), the seat-sharing arrangement was heavily loaded in favour of the Shiv Sena, which con-



Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis with Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray.

tested 169 seats, while the BJP contested 119 seats. By the time 2014 rolled around, the BJP, cresting on the Modi wave, wanted a renegotiation on a more realistic assessment of the ground situation.

Talks broke down in October 2014, and the two parted ways. The BJP and the Shiv Sena came back together after a period of being apart.

What is interesting, of course, is that out of the total 288 Assembly seats [one

till date. Under Order VI, Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules of 2013, a Bench should have a minimum of two judges. However, with the current amendment, the court would see a Single Judge Bench like in the High Courts.

The court has notified the Supreme Court (Amendment) Rules of 2019, which expands the 'master of roster' authority of the CJI to hand-pick one of his colleagues to form a Single Bench.

consulting the SCBA, which is a major stakeholder in the dispensation of justice in the court. The association urged the CJI to withdraw the amendment.

The decision is a departure from the Rules followed

No Minister will ever sign any file: Congress

Jairam Ramesh defends Chidambaram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday claimed that "no Minister will ever sign a file" after what happened to P. Chidambaram in the INX Media corruption case and called the action against the former Finance Minister a "paramount example of political vendetta".

"This is when the BJP had fought only on 260 seats and the Sena on 280," added the source.

The BJP had fought on 25 seats out of a total of 48 seats in the Lok Sabha election, and the Sena contesting 23 seats. The BJP's strike rate is better, too, with the party winning 23 of the seats; the Sena came in with 18 seats.

With all these numbers, the BJP is determined to settle the question of who can be seen as the big brother in the alliance in its favour, for some time to come.

and his wife, Indrani Mukherjee – to allow foreign investment in contravention of rules.

'Signed numerous files'
"If this philosophy is adopted, I can tell you that very soon no Minister will ever sign a file," said Mr. Ramesh. "As a Minister for eight years, I have signed hundreds of files; sometimes I have disagreed with the files that have come to me and sometimes I have agreed. Where I have disagreed, I have given reasons for the disagreement and where I have agreed, I have simply signed."

"Now, if the penalty for signing a file – based on what has come to the Minister – is custody in Tihar jail, I can assure, no Minister will sign any file," he added.

Mr. Ramesh, however, refused to take any questions from reporters, stating that the matter was in court.

Ayodhya Bench to hear case till 5 p.m. on Sept. 23

CJI hopes to close hearings by Oct. 18

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

who is arguing for the Sunni Waqf Board.

The CJI, who heads the five-judge Bench, is scheduled to retire on November 17. If the hearings are completed by October 18, the court would have a month to write the judgment in the over 70-year-old Ramjanmabhumi-Babri Masjid title dispute.

The court has also scheduled Constitution Bench hearings in a batch of petitions challenging the August 5 notification reading down Article 370 of the Constitution. That hearing is expected to start from the first week of October. It is not known if any of the judges, including the CJI, would be a part of this Bench.

Single judge Bench to hear bail pleas

It will also look into appeals for transfer of cases from one High Court to another

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



The CJI can hand-pick one of his colleagues to form a Single Bench.

consulting the SCBA, which is a major stakeholder in the dispensation of justice in the court. The association urged the CJI to withdraw the amendment.

The decision is a departure from the Rules followed

to serve the "ends of justice". It would decide cases of transfer of an "urgent nature" applied under Section 25 of the CrPC.

Finally, the amended Rules give the CJI complete discretion to periodically notify the category of cases that could be heard and disposed of by the Single Judge Bench. The notification comes in the wake of the expansion of the Supreme Court. Its judicial strength has increased from 31 to 34. Two more courtrooms have been added to the court.

Further, the new notification allows advocates enrolled in any State Bar Council under the Advocates Act to argue a case in person directly without nod from the Registrar concerned.

Mufti's daughter writes to Centre

She sought details on number of minors detained

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija has written to the Centre and Jammu & Kashmir government on behalf of her detained mother, seeking information on the number of detentions and arrests made in J&K since it was stripped of its special status more than a month ago.

Ms. Iltija has specifically asked for information on the number of minors (under 18), children in the 12-15 age group and those under 12 years, who have been detained, arrested or placed under house arrest. She has also sought data on the detainees and undertrials moved to jails and detention centres in other States.

Earlier, Ms. Iltija reactivated Ms. Mufti's Twitter handle which had fallen silent after August 5.

"Ms. Mehbooba Mufti, former Chief Minister of J&K, to whom this Twitter handle belongs, has been detained since 5th August 2019 without access to the account. This handle is now operated by myself, Iltija, daughter of Ms. Mufti, with due authorization," she tweeted.



Public outcry: Kashmiris shouting slogans during restrictions at a protest site in Srinagar after Friday prayers. ■ REUTERS

Farooq Abdullah turns to Koran

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

While family sources said Dr. Abdullah's daughter is allowed "to help him with his daily dose of medication," his sister Suraiya said her brother was in "good spirits."

"He prays five times a day," said Ms. Abdullah.

The doors connecting Dr. Abdullah's residence with those of his sister and daughter have been shut for now. "Entry from the front door only is allowed," the family members said.

They said Dr. Abdullah has access to television but receives no newspapers. However, former Chief Secre-

tary Musa Raza's book *'Land of Regrets'* is giving him company.

The sitting Member of Parliament from Srinagar was detained under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) on September 16 for his "provocative and secessionist speeches" made in the past.

Family members told *The Hindu* that his case was being discussed with senior lawyers in order to challenge the grounds of his detention. "We are weighing all the options," said a family member, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Madhukar Kamath to head ABC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Madhukar Kamath, Chairman Emeritus of DDB Mudra Pvt. Ltd., was unanimously elected chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the year 2019-2020.

Mr. Kamath has over four decades of experience in advertising and marketing.

He has also served as president of the Advertising Agencies Association of India and as the chairperson of the governing council of MICA.

Devendra V. Darda of Lokmat Media Pvt. Ltd. was elected Deputy Chairman. Riyad Mathew of Malayala Manorama Co. Ltd. is the honorary secretary and Vikram Sakhuja of Madison Communications is the honorary treasurer.

Other than Mr. Kamath, the representatives for advertising agencies include Shashidhar Sinha of Media Brands Pvt. Ltd and Srinivasan K. Swamy of RK Swamy BBDO Pvt. Ltd.

The other representatives from the publishers on the council include Hormusji N. Cama of The Bombay Samachar Pvt. Ltd, Shailesh Gupta from Jagran Prakashan Ltd, Chandan Majumdar of ABP Pvt. Ltd, Raj Kumar Jain from Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd, Pratap G. Pawar of Sakal Papers Pvt. Ltd and Praveen Someshwar from HT Media Ltd.

India, Mongolia to explore space together



PM Narendra Modi and Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga, left, unveil a statue of Lord Buddha on Friday. ■ PTI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India and Mongolia on Thursday signed MoUs on space cooperation and disaster management that will provide a new dimension to the India-Mongolia strategic partnership. A press note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs said the agreements would allow India to support Mongolia in resource management and sa-

Protesters get ready for PM's Houston rally

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
WASHINGTON DC

With 24 hours to go for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Howdy Modi" rally in Houston, where 50,000 Indian-Americans are registered to attend, protesters with different affiliations are preparing to battle the security arrangements for Mr. Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump and take on thousands of supporters of both the leaders.

New York-based activist Sunita Vishwanath, who founded "Hindus for Human Rights," that is part of a group called the Alliance for Justice and Accountability (AJA), says she will join the groups that will picket Houston's iconic NRG stadium – the rally venue.

"All of us are of Indian origin and the reason we are motivated to go to Houston to protest is because as people devoted to the secular idea of India, what we see happening in our homeland that we love is worrying," Ms. Vishwanath told *The Hindu*.

Several Kashmiri and Khalistani separatist groups, and a number of Pakistani-American groups have also planned to protest at the venue.

telite communication.

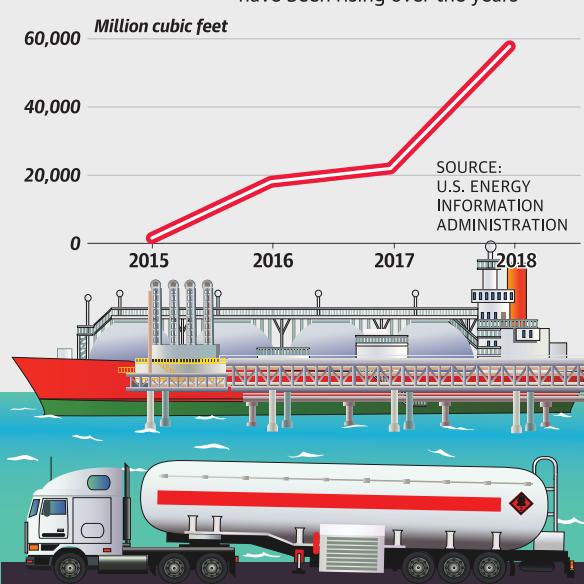
A joint statement said the space cooperation would allow "peaceful exploration" of outer space and include remote sensing and weather forecasting.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga on Friday also unveiled a Lord Buddha statue at Gandan Tegchenling Monastery in the capital Ulaanbaatar.

LNG deal to kick-start Modi's American tour

Flow meter

LNG imports from the U.S. to India have been rising over the years



Officials say oil, gas purchases to 're-energise' ties

SUHASINI HAIDAR
WASHINGTON DC

In an effort to "re-energise" ties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will kick off his visit to the United States with a major LNG investment deal which is expected to be announced at the beginning of his visit.

His first engagement as he lands in Houston, Texas will be a roundtable with top executives of 16 oil and gas companies, including LNG major Tellurian Inc. that is developing a \$28 billion LNG terminal project called Driftwood in Louisiana. In February this year, Indian PSU Petronet LNG inked an MoU with Tellurian to buy an equity stake in the project. Industry insiders say officials are rushing through the details in time for the meeting on Saturday.

Three-pronged message

Officials planning the visit said the Prime Minister's roundtable, to be held at America's energy hub Houston, is expected to send a three-pronged message the evening before his joint rally appearance with U.S. President Donald Trump: to showcase India as a major energy consumer and investor, a provider of jobs for Americans, and a destination for future U.S. exploration and regasification projects.

Compared to 2018, India has imported more than three times as much oil and twice as much gas from the U.S. this year, and it is hoped that the inflows of Indian oil payments will soften Mr. Trump's concerns about the trade deficit between the two countries, "greasing the wheels" for a potential breakthrough in the trade

xonMobil, Schlumberger, Tellurian and Total. An executive amongst the invitees, who preferred not to be named, said that while there is considerable interest in the Indian market for gas and shale, India's distribution networks are wholly inadequate to deliver LNG and demand has not grown as much as they had hoped.

20-year contract

In 2011, GAIL, which is one of the major owners of Petronet, had entered into a 20-year contract to buy 5.8 million tonnes per year of U.S. LNG, split between Dominion Energy and Cheniere Energy.

However, the long time taken for shipping from the U.S. to India, the recent downturn in key manufacturing sectors, as well as the industry's continuing dependency on coal have meant that Indian demand for LNG imports hasn't kept pace with supply. Over the past year many U.S. LNG cargoes bound for India have had to be resold via "swaps" in other markets.

Bharat Coking Coal Limited

A Mini Ratna Company
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

ABRIDGED NIT

Open Tenders are invited on-line on the e-tendering portal of CIL <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> for the work of "Hiring of HEMM for removal of OB, extraction and transportation of Coal from XV seam of Phase-III Patch, Gopalchuck Colliery, PB Area, BCCL" vide NIT No. **BCCL/CMC/e-Tender/HEMM/2019/379**, Date: **17.09.2019**.

Document download start date is 24.09.2019. Document download end date/bid submission end date is 14.10.2019.

All prospective bidders are advised to visit <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> for online participation in the tender. Details of tender will be mirrored on <http://www.bcclweb.in> and <https://eprocure.gov.in>.

General Manager (CMC),
Koyla Bhawan, BCCL

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Estate Office, GKVK, Bangalore - 560 065.

No.: EO/ICAR/WB/2019-20

Date : 20-09-2019

CORRIGENDUM

INVITATION FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The Schedule of events for Invitation for Consultancy Services No. EO/ICAR/WB/2019-20, Dt: 07-09-2019 for Providing Services on a Programme on Next Generations Technologies in Adaptive Agriculture under the World Bank funded ICAR NAHEP - CAAST Project Item (1) & (2) is Postponed due to Technical Error in e-Procurement portal. The Last Date & Time for Uploading of Tender is 26-09-2019 upto 00:00 p.m. and Financial Bid will be opened on 30-09-2019 at 10:30 a.m.

Sd/- Estate Officer

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATION

(Department of Tourism Development)

Kavaratti – 682 555

F.No. 18/12/2014-TD(PART-1) Dated 18.09.2019

EOI TENDER NOTICE

Department of Tourism, Lakshadweep has published EOI Tender Notice F.No. 18/12/2014-TD(PART-1) dated : 18.09.2019 for the Operation of Seaplane Service in Lakshadweep. Detailed Tender Notice is available and uploaded in Lakshadweep Administration website <http://www.lakshadweep.gov.in> and www.tenderwizard.com/UTL. The EOI Tender notice can be downloaded from 11.00 AM on 18.09.2019 to 11.00 AM 10.10.2019. The interested party can submit EOI upto 3 PM on 10.10.2019.

A pre-bid meeting has been scheduled for 11.00 AM on 30th September 2019 at Office of the Administrative Officer, Lakshadweep Office, Indira Gandhi Road, Willingdon Island, Kochi. Interested party can participate in the pre-bid meeting, and any queries on the EOI Tender notice may be mailed to adtourism.lk@gmail.com and td-dir-lak@gov.in

s/d/ (S ASKER ALI, IAS)
Director (Tourism Development)

UT OF LAKSHADWEEP

LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)

27/1038 B, Panampilly Nagar, Ernakulam, Cochin-682 036

Phone: 0484-2323448 / 2323458 Fax: 0484-2310926, 0484-2322924

E-Mail: ldclmat@gmail.com Website: www.ldcl.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NO. CM/TIV/001/19-20

E-Tenders are invited from established & reputed suppliers and Ship chandlers for supply of Ship general store items needed for LDCL ships to LDCL Store at Willingdon Island, Kochi - 3 on Annual Rate Contract basis. Please visit LDCL web site given above for further details and E-Tendering portal: www.tenderwizard.com/UTL for details and participation.

18.09.2019 Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of India Enterprise - Mini Ratna)

CIN: U74899DL1999GOI101707

(a) Notice Inviting E-Tender No. IRCTC/SZ/TS/2019-20/II, III, V to XI & XII/2019-20 for provision of Train Side Vending Services in non Pantry Car Superfast and Mail/Express trains over Southern & South Western Railway.

GGM/SZ invites E-Tender (through two bid system) for provision of Train Side Vending Services in non Pantry Car Superfast and Mail/Express trains over Southern & South Western Railway.

S.N. No. Sale of Tender Last Date & Time for submission of E-Tender

1 24.09.2019 16.10.2019 at 15:00 hrs

(b) Notice Inviting E-Tender - SZ/NIT/Refreshment Room/2019-20 & Jan Ahaar/2019-20/2

GGM/SZ invites E-Tender (through two bid system) for setting up of Refreshment Rooms over Southern & South Western Railway Stations.

S.N. No. Sale of Tender Last Date & Time for submission of E-Tender

1 23.09.2019 17.10.2019 at 15:00 hrs

Tender document download & participation can be done on Website:- www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC

In case of any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on IRCTC's website www.irctc.com

Central Coalfields Limited

A Miniratna Company

(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Advertisement No. 018/2019-20 and 019/2019-20

PH: (PBX) 0651-232052/ Extn.7031, Fax: (91) 0651-2360444, Re-Tender invited through E-Procurement Portal <http://www.coalindiatenders.gov.in> by Sr. Manager (MM), Gandhi Nagar Hospital, CCL, Ranchi for (1) Procurement of Gynaecology Drugs for CCL hospitals from eligible tenderers as mentioned in the tender document, Advertisement No. 018/2019-20, Tender Sl. No.: 018-CCL/Sr. Manager (MM)/GNH-18-19/Re-tender/ Rev. Pt-1/Gynaecology Drugs in two bid system, Bid submission end date: 16.10.2019 at 11:00 Hrs, Bid opening date: 18.10.2019 at 11:00 Hrs and (2) Procurement of Antiviral Drugs and vaccines for CCL hospitals from eligible tenderers as mentioned in the tender document, Advertisement No. 019/2019-20, Tender Sl. No.: 019-CCL/Sr. Manager (MM)/GNH-18-19/Re-tender/ Rev. Pt-1/Antiviral Drugs and vaccines in two bid system, Bid submission end date: 16.10.2019 at 11:00 Hrs, Bid opening date: 18.10.2019 at 11:00 Hrs.

Tender documents can be downloaded and bids can be submitted online through website mentioned above on the due date mentioned above.

ELSEWHERE



Kremlin says Maduro will visit Russia soon

MOSSOW

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro will visit Russia "soon", the Kremlin said on Friday, in an apparent attempt by the embattled leader to shore up support. "Indeed, the visit is being planned," President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "And it will take place fairly soon," he added, declining to provide precise dates. **AFP**

Pope decries euthanasia as court moots options

VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis on Friday again spoke out against assisted suicide and euthanasia, days before a top Italian court is to examine the thorny question in the largely Roman Catholic country. "We can and we must reject the temptation, which is also favoured by legislative changes, to use medicine to satisfy a sick person's possible wish to die," the Pope said. **AFP**

Hong Kong police tortured protesters, alleges Amnesty

REUTERS

HONG KONG

Amnesty International accused Hong Kong police on Friday of torture and other abuses in their handling of more than three months of pro-democracy protests, but the police say they have shown restraint on the street in the face of increased violence.

Anti-government protesters, many masked and wearing black, have thrown petrol bombs at police and central government offices,

Trump says no to military strike on Iran

Treasury Department imposes toughest-ever sanctions on Iranian central bank for funding terrorism

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTONAftermath of attacks: Damaged refining towers at Aramco's oil plant in Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia, on Friday. **AFP**

President Donald Trump on Friday announced new sanctions on Iran that he said were the toughest ever against another country but indicated he did not plan a military strike, calling restraint a sign of strength.

The Treasury Department unveiled action against Iran's central bank after U.S. officials said that Tehran carried out weekend attacks on rival Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure, which triggered a spike in global crude prices.

"We have just sanctioned the Iranian national bank," Mr. Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "These are the highest sanctions ever imposed on a country."

But Mr. Trump indicated he did not plan a military response, attacking both critics who thought he would trigger war and hawks seeking a military response.

"The easiest thing I could do (is) knock out 15 different major things in Iran," Mr. Trump said.

"I could do it right here in front of you. And that would be it. And then you would have a nice, big story to report," he said.

"But I think the strong-person approach and the thing that does show strength would be showing a little bit of restraint," he said.

Iran on borrowed time'

"Much easier to do it the other way. It's much easier. And Iran knows if they misbehave, they're on borrowed time," he said.

The United States already maintains sweeping sanctions on Iran, including on its central bank, with anyone who deals with it subject to prosecution, due to Tehran's alleged nuclear programme.

But the Treasury Department said that it was imposing sanctions for the additional reason of "terrorism," saying the central bank had provided "billions of dollars" to two forces blacklisted by the U.S.

Such a designation may be more difficult to lift, even if

Mr. Trump loses next year's election to a Democrat who wants to ease sanctions as part of a future deal.

"Iran's brazen attack against Saudi Arabia is unacceptable," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement.

"Treasury's action targets a crucial funding mechanism that the Iranian regime uses to support its terrorist network, including the Qods Force, Hezbollah and other militants that spread terror and destabilise the region," he said.

The Qods Force conducts international operations for Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, who are in charge of protecting the clerical regime. Hezbollah, the Shiite militant group and political party in Lebanon, is among Iran's closest regional partners.

Behnam Ben Taleblu, a senior fellow at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, which supports tough action on Iran, said that the latest measures are a way "to

push Tehran to shun funding terrorism."

"It proves to Tehran that there will be no stopping U.S. sanctions unless Iran changes its behaviour," he said.

Development fund hit

The United States also imposed sanctions on Iran's sovereign wealth fund, a development fund whose board of trustees includes President Hassan Rouhani as well as Etemad Tejarate Pars, a company that the Treasury Department said had sent money internationally on behalf of Iran's Defence Ministry.

Mr. Trump in June authorised a military strike after Iran shot down a U.S. drone, only to call it off at the last moment. He recently said that he hopes for talks with Mr. Rouhani, who responded that Mr. Trump must first ease sanctions.

Mr. Trump last year pulled out of a nuclear accord with Iran negotiated under former President Barack Obama.

Pak. activist flees to U.S., seeks political asylum

She spoke against Army's sexual abuse

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Gulalai Ismail

peace in Pakistan."

But she concluded she would be more effective abroad, saying: "If I had ended up in prison and tortured for many years, my voice would have been silenced."

Ms. Ismail believed she posed a special threat as a vocal woman. "When a man stands up, he is mostly against the State oppression. But when a woman stands up, she is fighting oppression on many levels – fighting cultural norms, and civil supremacy and

"I never wanted to leave Pakistan," she told AFP in an interview in Washington. "I believe that I can better work towards democracy and civil supremacy and

+ U.S. students seek climate action

Days before UN summit, young Americans march across the country

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
NEW YORK

The largest climate change protests in the U.S. got underway on Friday with students and young people expected to turn out in more than 1,000 locations across all 50 U.S. States to demand action to prevent climate change. Young Americans joined others across the world in a day of protests.

Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old from Sweden, who began weekly Friday protests outside Sweden's Parliament in August 2018 and has become the face of these protests, is participating in a rally in Lower Manhattan.

Ms. Thunberg, who does not take aeroplanes, arrived in the U.S. via a zero-emis-

sions solar-powered yacht, having set sail from Plymouth on August 14. Earlier this week, she was in Washington where she testified before Congress, and met lawmakers, including Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

"I don't want you to listen to me, I want you to listen to the scientists," Ms. Thunberg told a panel of the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this week, submitting a copy of the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C [October 2018] as her testimony to Congress. "And I want you to unite behind the science. And then I want you to take real action," Ms. Thunberg had said.



Greta Thunberg

New York's 1.1 million public school students have been allowed to skip classes to attend the protests if they have their parents' permission, but school teachers are not permitted to attend during school hours, the *New York Times* reported.

Friday's protests are scheduled for days before the UN Climate Change Summit on Monday which will see world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron deliver addresses. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres had told leaders not to bring speeches but to bring plans to Monday's Summit.

Significantly, President Donald Trump, who has pulled the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Accord and undone several climate change mitigating policies, will not speak on Monday. According to a CBS News poll, 56% of Americans want climate change action to be taken right now.

Twitter shuts down fake news accounts

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Twitter said on Friday it shut down thousands of accounts worldwide for spreading misinformation, including some artificially amplifying pro-Saudi messaging as part of a regional propaganda war.

The move affected pro-Saudi accounts coming from Egypt and the United Arab Emirates directed at Qatar and Yemen, Twitter said, as well as others from China seeking to sow discord among protesters in Hong Kong. Also, fake accounts were suspended in Spain and Ecuador.

Notably, it closed the account of Saudi royal court adviser Saud al-Qahtani. "There was nothing said wrong, it was pitch perfect!"

No dicey talk with anyone: Trump

Uproar over his call to a foreign leader to 'influence 2020 poll'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Mr. Trump tweeted, without detailing whom he had spoken to or what was said.

He said his Democratic opponents and the media "think I may have had a 'dicey' conversation with a certain foreign leader" but this was only based on what he identified foreign leader after a whistleblower in the intelligence services sounded the alarm.

The *Washington Post* reported that the call was to Ukraine and that Mr. Trump had made a "promise" of some kind.

"There was nothing said wrong, it was pitch perfect!"

The allegations could ref-

er to a call known to have been made in July between Mr. Trump and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, a former comedian who was elected in May.

Mr. Trump allegedly sought to pressure the Ukrainians to pursue corruption charges against the son of his main Democratic rival in the 2020 presidential election Joe Biden.

Congressional legislators were also concerned that the Trump administration had been holding back military aid to Ukraine at the time.

Bill de Blasio drops out of Democratic presidential race

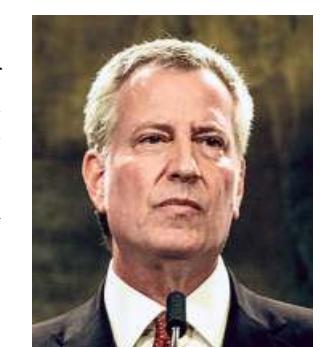
He was unlikely to qualify for the fourth Democratic debate

JEFFERY C. MAYS
NEW YORK

Bill de Blasio, the Mayor of New York City who entered the Democratic presidential race on the premise that his brand of urban progressive leadership could appeal on a national scale, said on Friday that he was ending his candidacy.

Mr. De Blasio's announcement came as it became clear he was unlikely to qualify for the fourth Democratic debate next month, cementing the notion that he lacked the support and funds to sustain his bid.

"I feel like I've contributed all I can to this primary campaign, and it's clearly not my time," he said in an appearance on *MSNBC's "Morning Joe."* "I'm going to end my presidential campaign, continue my work as



Bill de Blasio

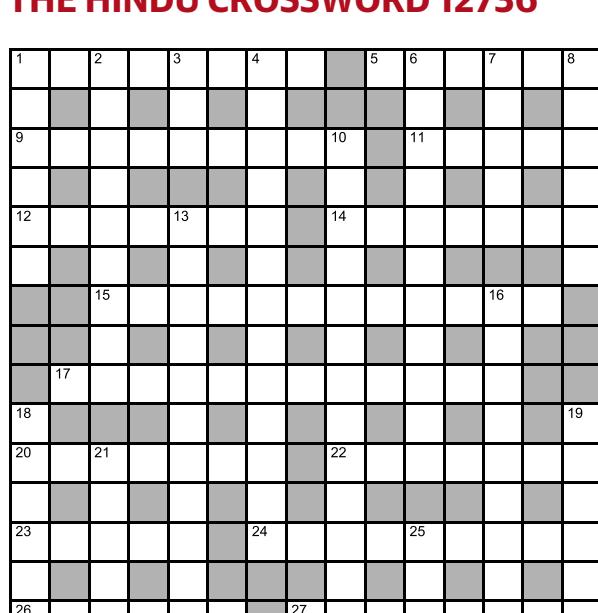
mayor of New York City, and I'm going to keep speaking up for working people."

Mr. De Blasio focused his campaign on trying to improve the lives of those working people.

He tried to position himself as the most suitable Democrat to take on President Donald Trump, given his familiarity with Mr. Trump as a real estate magnate in New York. He branded the President "Con Don".

None of it worked. Mr. De Blasio's campaign was seen as a quixotic, 100-to-1 shot from its inception and it never gained traction, not even in New York. *NY TIMES*

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12736

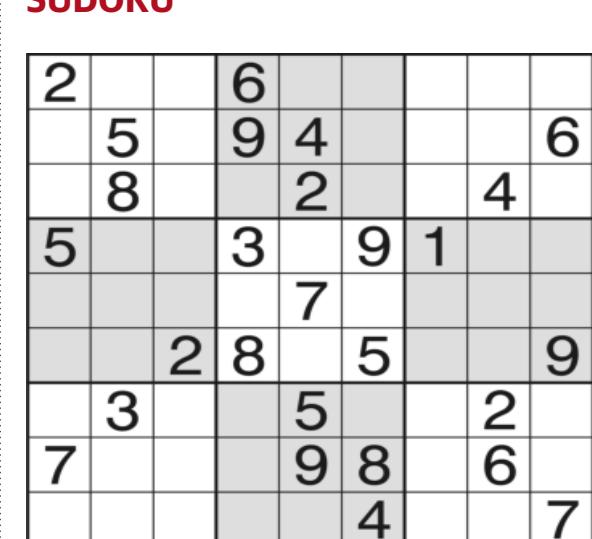


ACROSS

- Smirking revolutionary ingesting a small amount of jellied candies (8)
- In America, vortices make one play boisterously (6)
- Careens off-course to capture the performing orator's vocal quality (9)
- A chilly way to get suspended? (2,3)

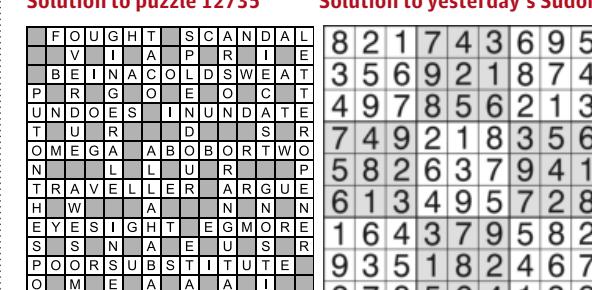
- (set by Neyertha)
- Asian with a pleated sari in front of a priest (7)
 - Note about the associate sent back by the royal entourage (7)
 - Brief congregational disturbance after the removal of a good senior citizen (12)
 - Doctor annoys chorus with a description of clocks having no similarities in phase or frequency (12)
 - Oak Wanji chopped up in a Japanese island (7)
 - Systematic study involves putting one at the wrong place with the beautiful Oriental (7)
 - Note included with the cut fruit from the east for the Greek storyteller (5)
 - Factory providing poor pay makes stopwatches out of Connecticut (9)
 - Loafly arrangement by the retiring sailor with an old UK school qualification (1,5)
 - Animal with flower returned after son enters with a tax official (8)
 - Fish with a taste, reportedly, for a vegetable (6)
 - Spreads some of the edible fungi (9)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12735



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

FAITH

Plea from the heart

The Lord and His consort descend together to fulfil the purposes of their incarnations. In Rama avatar, out of compassion for humanity, the divine mother as Sita allows herself to be taken away forcibly to Lanka. This is to enable the killing of Ravana who is a great Siva devotee and a ruler who has consolidated extraordinary prowess through boons obtained by austere practices. She subjects herself to untold miseries when in captivity. In Krishna avatar, the divine mother as Rukmini pleads with Krishna to save her from the untoward marriage with Sisupala before he can approach her, pointed out Sri B. Damodhara Dikshitar in a discourse. Her brother Rukmini entertains enmity to Krishna and wants to give Rukmini in marriage to the evil minded Sisupala. But Rukmini has heard of the Lord's glories and her heart is filled with His thoughts. She represents the true devotee who is only driven by a desire to be with the Lord. She sends a Brahmin as a messenger to Krishna to inform Him of her desperate situation. The famed letter she reaches out to Krishna has tremendous significance as showcasing the plight of the jivatma for whom the Paramatma is the rightful owner. All jivatmas belong to the Lord and are His property. She also alludes to Narasimha avatar, and states that He has to make His appearance at the right moment to claim her, lest the Chedi king like a jackal takes away the possession meant for the lion. A jivatma earns the right to be with the Lord through acquiring merit by worship and spiritual practices, sacrifices, charities, religious rites, and adoration of holy men, elders and teachers. She suggests that Krishna should come incognito to her presence during the procession for worship at the temple of Goddess Parvati and by force of arms should marry with all chivalry and glory.

A real game changer.
Measures will boost investment by corporates. Would look forward to seeing similar measures on personal taxation



The large reduction in corporate taxes across the spectrum of all companies is perhaps the boldest reform in the last 28 years! The move to incentivise setting up new manufacturing units could also lead to India integrating with the global supply chain

RANJISH KUMAR
Chairman, SBI

The reduction in corporate tax rates makes Indian industry more competitive globally. These measures only reaffirm the government's willingness to move beyond incrementalism

KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA
Chairman, Aditya Birla Group

The bold and positive move to rationalise the corporate tax structure will help kick-start the next big economic upcycle

SUNIL BHARTI MITTAL
Founder and Chairman, Bharti Enterprises



The lower tax for new manufacturing firms will give a boost to the manufacture of domestic consumables and devices in the healthcare sector

PRATHAP C. REDDY
Chairman, Apollo Hospitals

'Surcharge relief may improve sentiment, boost earnings'

Government waives the levy for all categories of investors; surcharge not applicable on FPIs on sale of securities in the derivatives segment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Almost a month after announcing the first set of incentives for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) by waiving the surcharge introduced in the Union Budget - but which failed to stem the outflows in any manner - the government has announced fresh incentives while also extending the benefit to all categories of investors.

On Friday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the tax surcharge would be waived for all categories of investors, including individuals and those operating under structures like Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), Association of Persons (AOP), Body of Individuals (BOI) and Artificial Juridical Per-

son (AJP). A statement from the government clarified that the surcharge would not be applicable on the "capital gains arising on sale of equity shares in a company or a unit of an equity-oriented fund or a unit of a business trust liable for securities transaction tax."

Further, the government has also clarified that the surcharge would not be applicable on FPIs on sale of securities in the derivatives segment as well.

Simply put, any gains arising from the sale of securities in the cash or derivatives segment or units of equity mutual funds on which securities transaction tax (STT) has been levied will not be subjected to the surcharge, that

Booster dose

With Friday's development, India's corporate tax rate becomes comparable to nations that typically attract investments

Country	Corporate tax rate
U.S.	25.89%
U.K.	19%
Germany	29.89%
France	32.02%
China	25%
Vietnam	20%
Philippines	30%
Malaysia	24%
Singapore	17%
South Korea	27.50%
India	25.17%

SOURCE: KPMG, OECD



had further fuelled the flight of foreign money from the Indian capital markets.

on August 23, FPIs have till date sold shares worth almost ₹6,300 crore.

Market participants, however, are optimistic that the latest set of measures would have a longer term impact on the markets in terms of a positive impact on earnings and fund flows.

"This will help improve the sentiments and have a positive impact on earnings thereby leading to an overall re-rating of the markets," according to Mihir Kothari, head, institutional sales, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

No buy-back tax

Meanwhile, after announcing a buy-back tax in the Union Budget, the government has now decided to exempt

firms that announced a buy-back before the proposal was announced on July 5.

"In order to provide relief to listed companies which have already made a public announcement of buy-back before July 5, 2019, it is provided that tax on buy-back of shares in case of such companies shall not be charged," stated the government in the release.

The exemption would benefit companies like Sasken Technologies, Greaves Cotton, Welspun Corp, Indowind Energy, Star Cement and Eris Lifesciences among others, as per data from Prime Database, which pegs the cumulative size of buy-back offers that would benefit from Friday's relief at approximately ₹1,100 crore.

Indices post biggest one-day gain in decade

Sensex zooms 5.3%, banks lead charge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

araman slashed corporate tax rates, while providing incentives to new domestic manufacturing companies. She also announced that the tax surcharge announced in the Budget would be waived off for all categories of investors and also the buy back tax would not be applicable on firms that announced their buy back prior to July 5.

Vijay Chandok, MD & CEO, ICICI Securities, likened the tax cuts to those announced by the U.S. President Donald Trump in 2017, which gave a fillip to the U.S. economy.

Interestingly, provisional numbers showed that foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) were net buyers at only ₹36 crore on Friday. Though a paltry number, it would come as relief to market players who have been witnessing selling by FPIs almost on a daily basis. Domestic institutional investors, who have been acting as a strong counterforce to the selling by FPIs, were net buyers at over ₹3,000 crore.

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The broader Nifty also registered its second-highest gain while closing at 11,274.20, up 569.40 points or 5.32%. The Nifty Bank index gained a massive 2,224 points while those representing fast moving consumer goods and private banks also gained over 1,000 points each.

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Earlier



NAMRATA JOSHI

Riz Ahmed reminds me of those quintessential commuters on the London Tube who appear too engrossed in a book to notice anyone else, but would have, in fact, stealthily taken note of and weighed in on everyone around them. On a day out with the press at Lavelle Rooftop in Toronto, on the sidelines of the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), the 36-year-old British actor, rapper and activist, dressed in black checked trousers, white tee, mustard jacket and multi-coloured shoes, seems too deeply lost within himself, but has actually been attentive enough to discern the pronounced Scottish accent of a journalist from Glasgow.

A conversation that begins with a query, about whether his latest role – of a heavy metal drummer facing hearing loss – found him at his most vulnerable, is initially negated, only for him to thoughtfully round off the interview later with how it perhaps was all about vulnerability in a tangential way. Darius Marder's *Sound of Metal* had its world premiere at TIFF and opened to a strong critical response, specially for Ahmed's effective, forceful performance – which takes him full circle, from denial to rage, anxiety, depres-

RIZ AHMED

unmasked

Sound of Metal was a hit at TIFF, and the actor-rapper-activist says the movie has changed the way he thinks about acting. Now it is about looking inwards and being himself

sion to reconciliation and finding peace with his condition. Some describe it as his best yet. Riding on the positive word of mouth, *Sound of Metal*'s US rights have been bagged by Amazon.

Existing in multiple spaces

Ahmed, with offbeats like *The Road to Guantanamo* (2006), *Four Lions* (2010), *Trishna* (2011) and *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (2013) behind him, came into his own with *Nightcrawler* (2014). Then the HBO miniseries, *The Night Of* (2016), won him the Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Limited Series or Movie, making him the first Muslim and South Asian to win a lead acting Emmy. The only previous South Asian to win an acting Emmy is Archie Panjabi, for a supporting role in *For the Good Wife*.

From actioners like *Jason Bourne* (2016), *Rogue One* (2016) and *Venom* (2018) to a western like *The Sisters Brothers* (2018), it has been as much about traversing diverse genres for Ahmed as about going beyond the confines of ethnicity. He sees more of himself in *Sound of Metal* than any of his other performances, not so much for the vulnerability but as a decisive step forward in what he's been trying to do as an actor over the years – stretching culture in a small way through his hyphenated identity.

Ahmed was born in Wembley in 1982, his parents having moved to England from Karachi in the '70s. "When you don't belong neatly in any one given box, when you are not British or

Pakistani, when you fall between the cracks, which is how I grew up, you end up actually stretching yourself. You stretch culture just by existing in these multiple spaces, just by inhabiting the multiplicities," he says. He looks back at his younger self as a "good contortionist", one with a "flexible spine".

But now, at a different juncture in his life, and with the world around him also changing rapidly, "it is no longer about being a contortionist, but seeing if you can get your flexible spine to stand up straight and just be yourself, to really mine yourself, because within each of us are these multiple selves".

Politics and a point of view

Ahmed says the reason he probably became an actor was because he grew up making and moulding different masks to inhabit different worlds. "But the toughest thing, or potentially the most subversive thing for someone like me to do is to take off that mask. I think the way to stretch culture is to turn my back on mask making and mask wearing, and turn my attention more to unmasking." He admits, a trifle amused, that it may all

sound highfalutin, but *Sound of Metal* shifted the whole way he'd been thinking about acting. It is now all about immersion within himself and spending more time looking inwards. "In a nutshell, it is recognising your own experience as valid and drawing on it," he says.

This is the font of his politics and world-view as well. Just as we go to press, he has pulled out of an event in the US, hosted by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to receive the Global Goalkeeper award for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Though Ahmed hasn't issued a statement yet, speculation is that it could have to do with the Indian government's actions in Jammu and Kashmir.

Politics has been part of his art, forever and always. Be it his work, social media, red carpets or a speech in the House of Commons, the outspoken Ahmed has talked about multiculturalism and diversity (or the lack of it) in entertainment. His 2006 song 'Post 9/11 Blues' made satirical references to 9/11, terrorism, the post 9/11 scenario, et al. Ahmed has spoken out about Islamophobia and the lack of accurate representation of Muslims in the arts. As an activist, he has been involved



Jeff Goldblum lookalike?

The actor is often compared to Jeff Goldblum (famous for films like *Jurassic Park*, *Igby Goes Down*, *Into the Night*) on social media and in person. And Ahmed is happy. "I love Goldblum. If people were to compare me to him the rest of my life I will die happy. He is a very interesting guy, if you think about it. He doesn't fit into any box. He has played leading men, comedians, he is ethnically ambiguous. He is stylish, authentic, flamboyant. He seems like someone who unapologetically embraces all the sides of who he is."

in raising funds for the Syrian refugee children and Myanmar's displaced Rohingyas. In 2017, he was included in the annual *Time 100* list of the most influential people in the world.

While philanthropy comes to him spontaneously, acting asks for more. In *Sound of Metal*, it involved seven-and-a-half months of practical as well as emotional preparation, leading on to four weeks of shooting. He learnt to play the drums with New York-based drummer Guy Licata, every day for two-and-a-half hours, and sign language from Jeremy Stone (artistic director of American Sign Language) for one-and-a-half hours. He hung out with the "noise, punk kind of metal com-

munity" and the deaf community. "It is to find out ways in which you may overlap with the character, go deeper into that. In the process you stretch what was your initial idea of the character and also stretch what was your initial idea of yourself," he says.

Finding himself in silence

How did a film about wordless communication transform his response to silence? Ahmed admits having been scared of silence. "I would rarely listen to CDs when I was growing up. I used to listen to the radio because I knew other people were listening. I didn't have a concept of aloneness; only thought of it as loneliness. I can relate to his [the character, Ruben Stone's] journey to face that silence. When you sit in silence, you sit in a void. You have to face yourself. Ruben went on that journey and he dragged me along with him. Now I think I have a pretty good relationship with silence."

He looks back at the film as an intensive, enriching and joyous experience. "You find yourself in unexpected places. You find yourself in a deaf kid, in a heavy metal drummer, in a Vietnam war veteran," he says, adding the motley crew from diverse background was a privilege to work with. "Something amazing happens when you bond with people you are told you have nothing in common with."

Despite the enriching experience it has been shooting it, the film itself is about something that is just the opposite – unanticipated loss, and how it makes you crumble but could also transform you and help you gain in unseen ways. What are you scared of losing, I ask Ahmed. He takes a long pause. "I'm scared of losing connection with myself, with people... It is a strange paradox, but it is something a lot of spiritual traditions speak about. Sufism, Buddhism always have this idea that when something breaks, light can enter," he says, and then comes back to the question of vulnerability that we began with. "When you are at your most vulnerable, you find strength and it is not just your own strength but also of those around you. It is one of life's great tragic ironies... When it all [goes belly up] is when you realise the abundance of life."



A full calendar

After the spiritual journey of *Sound of Metal*, Ahmed is doing *Mughal Mowgli*, which he co-wrote with Sundance prizewinner, Bassam Tariq. He also has a slate of projects that he has developed himself, including starring in an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* for Netflix.

Sandesh and soul food

Indulge in iconic favourites from your hometown wherever you are, thanks to JustMyRoots



SUSANNA MYRTLE LAZARUS

In the battle of the *biryani*, Arsalan's potato-laden version has its staunch supporters. And *sandesh* isn't the same unless it's from Balaram Mullick. The argument over who invented *rosogolla* can be solved over a couple of the sugar-soaked *chhena* dumplings – we can conclude that it simply doesn't matter. With Durga Puja around the corner, Bengalis around the country don't have to travel all the way to Kolkata to sample these signature dishes. JustMyRoots (JMR), a food-tech platform, offers to bridge the gap by shipping speciality dishes from iconic restaurants to 21 cities across the country.

CEO and founder Samiran Sengupta says the idea is to tap into the nostalgia that India's largely migrant population have for the food of their hometown. Apart from the sweets, savouries and cooked dishes, their offerings include fresh fish like *hilsa* and produce like *gondhoraj lebu*. The platform has also partnered with restaurants in Delhi, Jaipur,

Mumbai and Lucknow, with plans to expand to Chennai, Hyderabad and Kochi, among other cities, by the end of the year.

Taste of home

The concept is simple: visit the website or app and order like you would on a food-delivery platform like Swiggy or Zomato. The only difference is that you have to wait a few days before it reaches you. However, Sengupta reiterates that the food reaches their customer within 24 hours of being prepared. Another option that JMR offers is Direct From Home. He explains, "This is a big hit with parents whose children stay in different cities. They can ship a home-cooked meal to their kid for special occasions, or simply because they are missing home." The food is picked up and packed much like it is from their restaurant partners, and delivered within the same time period.

Their other USP is the packaging, he says. Although other sites like PlaceOfOrigin.in ship sweets, snacks, dry fruits, namkeen, pickle, jams, tea and coffee, the fact that JMR deals with freshly-cooked dishes, which puts the focus on the supply chain. "We spent nine months to a year just perfecting the packaging based on both customer and partner restaurant



Pure indulgence

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feedback. We finally settled on a product from Israel, which maintains the temperature of the food between five and eight degree celsius, which is ideal for transportation," he says. Since only 10 to 15% of it remains plastic, they are in the process of researching to make the packaging completely biodegradable. Future plans include expanding to China and other South East Asian countries by the end of this year, or early 2020, to cater to the Indian diaspora population. It's also close enough to fulfill their 24 hour promise.

Visit justmyroots.com

PRODUCT

Merging two minds

TOMMY HILFINGER X LEWIS HAMILTON

Tommy Hilfiger's long-standing fascination with Formula One has led it to collaborate with five-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton. The line, with a range of clothing, footwear and fragrances for men and women, is being described as a fusion of "Hilfiger's DNA and Hamilton's fashion-forward street style". Our pick is the reversible puffer bomber jacket, with bright red and jet black options. With interiors lined with a sustainable alternative material made of recycled PET bottles, the jacket can also be fashioned into a dress.

Approximately ₹28,530.
Usa.tommy.com



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5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



DANCE

Classical
Navaneetham Cultural Trust presents the third edition of its annual Indian classical dance festival Thouryathrikam, a series to promote young and talented dancers. This edition will feature Odissi recital by Ankita Bakshi, Kuchipudi by Sannidha Rajasagi, and a Kathak performance by Vishavdeep.
VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg
TIME: 6:45 p.m.



FOOD

Sunday Brunch
Seasonal Tastes has organised a month-long culinary festival called Marvels of the Culinaire, which is on every Sunday. Five chefs – Sadab Qureshi, Marco Murenco, Venicio Cadavida, Jatslid Sirimongkolthong, and Siow Tek Woon – will exhibit their selective signature dishes from five different cuisines.
VENUE: The Westin Gurgaon, Gurugram
TIME: 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.



WORKSHOP

Doodling
Select Citywalk is celebrating the National Doodle Day, marked on September 20, by organising a doodling art workshop this Sunday evening. Art-lovers are invited to join this interactive and fun workshop to translate their creativity and imagination onto paper. Sessions will be curated by Sadhika Gupta and Angel Bedi.
VENUE: Select Citywalk, Saket
TIME: 4:30-6 p.m. and 6:30-8 p.m.



PERFORMANCE

Unplugged audio
A unique silent unplugged audio performance, where audience can enjoy music on headphones, collectively will take place this evening. The event, conceptualised by SilentOwl, will feature a solo opening act by Vasu Raina, followed by a music performance by Bhavya Raj, and live art creation by Rohit Soni.
VENUE: Akshara Theatre, Baba Kharak Singh Marg
TIME: 6 p.m.

FILM

Frankenstein

The National Theatre will broadcast director Danny Boyle's 2011 film *Frankenstein*, this Sunday. The adaptation of author Mary Shelley's 1818 novel of the same name, is about Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a hideous sapient creature, manufactured with assorted parts from a graveyard.
VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 3 p.m.

FILM REVIEWS

Not all about Eve

Despite the film being centred on the heroine, it's the hero who runs away with the film



NAMRATA JOSHI

The Zoya Factor is not quite what you'd assume it to be—a woman-centred romantic comedy. It's the hero who runs away with the chick flick. Based on Anuja Chauhan's novel of the same title, the film has a bumbling ad executive, Zoya Solanki (Sonam Kapoor) at its centre. On a shoot with the Indian cricket team, she ends up becoming its lucky mascot

for the World Cup and also charms her way to the team captain Nikhil Khoda's (Dulquer Salmaan) heart. It's the ultimate romantic fantasy of any Indian girl next door.

On paper the personal and professional struggles of Zoya seem like an ideal vehicle for any wannabe Indian Bridget Jones to run riot. Not quite. The ditzy manner of the impeccably clad Sonam Kapoor works only up to a point and becomes pesky when stretched over two hours. Like her, the quirky tenor of the film also feels deliberate than organic and is irritating and clunky at that. The misunderstandings between the

A Dulquer show
The Malayalam actor plays the most rounded role • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

lovers are played out the worst. Not only do they feel needless but also inert. Where's the emotional pull? And, one hasn't yet addressed how the combination of the world of cricket and advertising easily paves the way for some uncomfortably conspicuous in-film brand endorsement.

The cast is largely populated with consciously oddball characters, whether its the cricketers, the advertising professionals, Zoya's own family and colleagues or even the two commentators we hear and laugh at but don't get to see. Zoya and Koen Purie as her boss are the only women in the male world and it's the male actors who register a shade better than them on the audience, be it Sanjay Kapoor as Zoya's father or Sikander Kher as her brother, Angad Bedi as the captain's rival or Manu Rishi as the scheming board member.

Despite the film being a rickety ride and Dulquer Sal-

The Zoya Factor

DIRECTOR: Abhishek Sharma

CAST: Sonam Kapoor, Dulquer Salmaan, Sanjay Kapoor, Angad Bedi, Sikander Kher, Manu Rishi, Koen Purie

RUN TIME: 136 minutes

STORYLINE: Bumbling ad executive, Zoya Solanki, on a shoot with the Indian cricket team, ends up becoming its lucky mascot and also charms her way to the team captain's heart

maan not being utilised to his best potential, the Malayalam star still ends up playing the most rounded role of the lot. He steals the show with his mere presence that is both intelligent and charming in a believable, non-filmi way. He gives the very few and far between dreamy, mushy moments that are a key to 'an opposites attract' love story. Wish there could be more of them here. The look he gives Zoya, suffused with an amused affection, was enough to melt my geriatric, fossilised heart. What to say for the fresh and fledgling ones.

Desultory and cautious The film is weighed down by the vast canvas of 771 pages it had to adapt • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A goldfinch that never flies

The profundity of art and destiny are reduced to plot devices in this desultory adaptation of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel

KENNETH ROSARIO

Adapting a Pulitzer Prize-winning bestseller is a double-edged sword. The novel has a ready audience in its large number of readers but also baggage of expectations. The reader, who now doubles up as a viewer, knows the characters - their thoughts, lives, philosophies and traumas - as much as the filmmaker does. There's little room to argue otherwise. The filmmaker and his writers are at the liberty to expand the universe of the book but, often that's not the wisest decision either (considering how militant readers can get).

With *The Goldfinch*, you can see the makers struggle with these dilemmas constantly, rendering the film a desultory and cautious tone.

The opening scene with Ansel Elgort, a grown-up Theodore, hints at some kind of violence, accompanied by exposition. You can sense an allegiance to the source material when an adaptation opens with exposition. The film, from there on, has a vast canvas (771 pages) to cover, and it does so by using flashbacks and episodes from Theodore's life to take the narrative forward. The outcome is so rushed and emotions are so ephemeral that even uniformity in aesthetics (soft gol-

The Goldfinch

DIRECTOR: John Crowley

CAST: Ansel Elgort, Oakes Fegley, Aneurin Barnard, Finn Wolfhard, Sarah Paulson, Luke Wilson, Jeffrey Wright, Nicole Kidman

STORYLINE: 13-year-old Theodore's trauma of losing his mother in a bomb blast has a pivotal impact on his life

tions of a traumatised boy and the guilt that haunts the rest of his life, the film is unable to bring out the philosophical significance of art, diminishing *The Goldfinch* painting by Carel Fabritius to merely a plot device.

As difficult as filmmaker John Crowley and screenwriter Peter Straughan make it for you to be invested in the characters, including Theodore, the friendship between a young Theodore and Boris, a rebellious Russian teen with an abusive father, emerges as an exception. When all is lost, shared experiences of trauma, hopelessness and uncertainty, bind the two characters together in the parched Nevada desert, as they navigate adolescence.

Right at the onset, you discover Theodore has lost his mother in a bomb explosion at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. This incident illustrates the unwavering significance of destiny and art in Theodore's life. The protagonist's recurring tryst with the two is at the core of this story.

Dig deeper, and the narrative wants to comment on the interdependence of destiny and art as well, but the film, with its agenda to cover an expansive ground, never quite allows any depth to emerge. Even though a few scenes do capture the emo-

den hues and lighting) and film score (melancholic and uplifting) are ineffective adhesives to keep this narrative unfolding naturally. Actors like Sarah Paulson and Nicole Kidman, are in the process, reduced to vignettes.

The opening scene with Ansel Elgort, a grown-up Theodore, hints at some kind of violence, accompanied by exposition. You can sense an allegiance to the source material when an adaptation opens with exposition. The film, from there on, has a vast canvas (771 pages) to cover, and it does so by using flashbacks and episodes from Theodore's life to take the narrative forward. The outcome is so rushed and emotions are so ephemeral that even uniformity in aesthetics (soft gol-

Topper Harley to the rescue

Blood, guts, and xenophobia

MINI ANTHIKAD CHHIBBER

While that other ex-military drifter, Jack Reacher is part Rimbaud and part Rambo, with a fascination for prime number factorization and head butting, John Rambo gives mathematics and the Romantics a wide berth while handing out a particular brand of justice using his special skill set.

The fifth movie in the franchise which started with *First Blood* (1982), is violent and gory (I was watching from between my fingers) and easily forgettable—if not for the bone crunching violence, which one would like to wipe out of memory as soon as possible.

Trying for an elegiac tone complete with wooden house and beautiful horses is laughable as the movie quickly devolves into horrific violence with beating hearts and collar being pried out. The story involves Rambo living the quiet life on a ranch in Arizona with the beautiful Gabrielle and her grandmother. When Gabrielle runs off to Mexico to find her estranged father and finds herself in the hands of vicious drug dealers and human traffickers, it is left to Rambo to shoot 'em up and bring her home.

Co-written by Stallone, *Last Blood* abounds in stereotypes. The bad guys are flat and indistinguishable and

would have been awful cartoons were not for all the blood, broken bones and decapitations. Apart from Stallone as Rambo, everyone else is interchangeable including Paz Vega as Carmen Delgado, a journalist with a propensity to leave her shirt unbuttoned. The Mexican

bad guys have a questionable taste in music as they shoot the speakers rather than listen to Jim Morrison silkily sing 'Five to One'—not even *Rockhouse Blues*!

The end credit montage of earlier Rambo films only brought to mind Charlie Sheen as Topper Harley in

Jim Abrahams' laugh riot *Hot Shots! Part Deux* ("She is CIA. The other man is an extra"). The movie ends with Rambo riding into the sunset like the Marlboro man.

Hopefully he is not riding into another small town to cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war.

Bone crunching violence

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

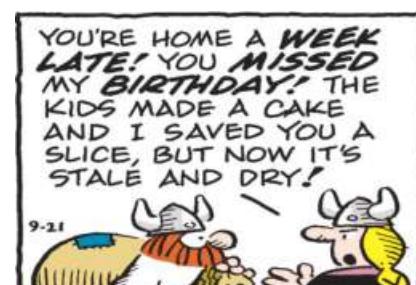


The film abounds in stereotypes

POOCH CAFE



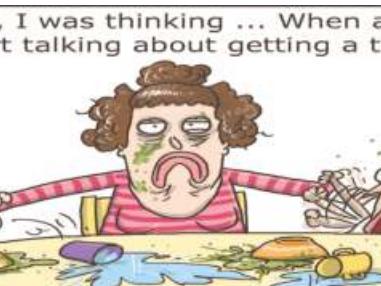
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



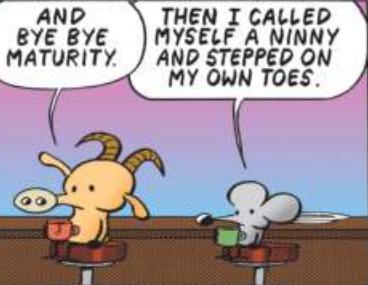
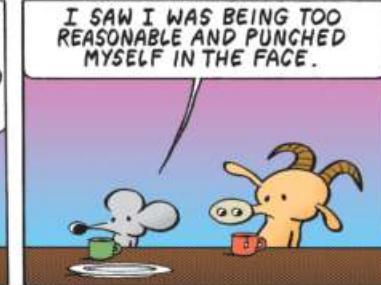
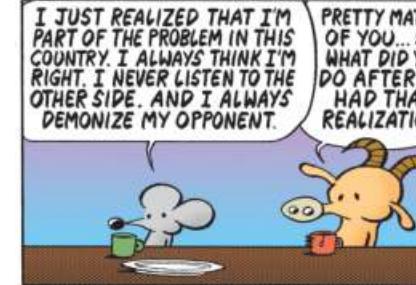
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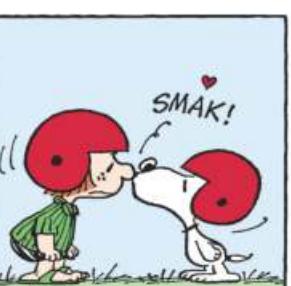
WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



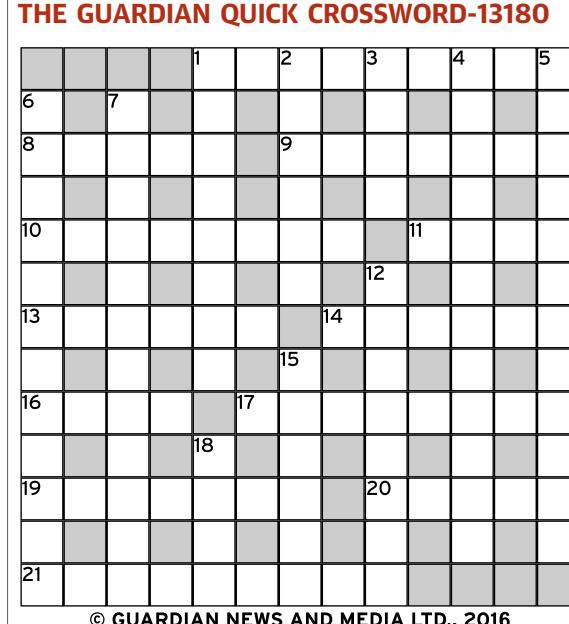
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13180



© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD, 2016

- 3 Dutch shoe (4)
- 4 Washing lemon (anag) – nativeborn inhabitant of Yorkshire, say (12)
- 5 Cross-country riding (4,8)
- 6 Cautious (6-6)
- 7 Gossip spreader (6-6)
- 12 Suggestions to improve performance (8)
- 15 Dwarfed ornamental tree (6)
- 18 + (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated September 23, 2019.

Solution No. 13179

- Across
- 1 Bought for peanuts? (4,5)
- 8 Small body containing the female germ cell of a plant (5)
- 9 Bad person – googy (5,2)
- 10 Ten hundreds (8)
- 11 Droop in the heat (4)
- 12 Standard (9)
- 14 Derisive giggle (3-3)
- 16 Wind instrument (4)
- 17 The Bible (4,4)
- 19 On/off switches (7)
- 20 For a second time (5)
- 21 Standard (9)
- Down
- 1 More smartly clothed (8)
- 2 Sculling sport? (6)



A ND-NDE

Lampard's youngsters face the Reds litmus test

Chelsea's academy graduates have scored all of the club's Premier League goals this season. Can they sustain their level against a dominant Liverpool on Sunday?

PREVIEW PACK

Form guide
 Chelsea | LDDW | Liverpool | WWWWW

H2H (PL)
Overall: Chelsea 20 | Liverpool 20 | Draws 14 | At Stamford Bridge: Chelsea 14 | Liverpool 6 | Draws 7 | **At the Bridge in the Klopp era:** Chelsea 1 | Liverpool 2 | Draws 1

Trendspotting
 • Liverpool has won its last 14 PL games, scoring at least two goals in each of them

• Chelsea is yet to win a PL game at home under Lampard, drawing its two fixtures at the Bridge this season



Mount

to the season, winning all of their Premier League games. The midweek defeat in Europe against Napoli was a dampener Jurgen Klopp's men will look to recover from.

Keeping it local

Striker Tammy Abraham, 21, has been the outstanding contributor with seven goals – he is just the third player aged under 22 to score at least two goals in three successive Premier League games, Cristiano Ronaldo and Dele Alli the others. But Abraham has been well supported by midfielder Mason Mount (three goals) and centre-back Fikayo Tomori, who scored a stunning 30-yard strike against Wolves.

The fact that each of these players has worked his way through the ranks after joining Chelsea at the under-eight level has given Blues fans enormous pleasure, improving the mood at Stamford Bridge.

But though the London club is level with Tottenham, United, Leicester and Arsenal on points in the early battle for a top-four finish, this weekend's fixture against Liverpool at home will be a stern test of its progress.

The Reds have set a scorching pace in the start

ham's drive to improve, describing it as "a bit special, you don't see that in all young players"; 90 minutes against van Dijk will be a steep learning curve, especially since the Liverpool centre-back made a rare error against Napoli and will be determined not to be embarrassed by the young striker.

Abraham has shown he can find the back of the net in a variety of ways: his attempts this season have ranged from the messy to the aerially dominant, with some skill and quick feet mixed in, as well. "Sunday is a test of character," Abraham said. "We can take our anger out against Liverpool after the European disappointment. It's a massive game. We'll look forward to putting [the Valencia loss] right."

Mount, whom Lampard observed at close quarters at Derby last season, went off in the game against Valencia after a tackle from Francis Coquelin, but a scan has shown that the ankle in-

jury is not as bad as anticipated. The 20-year-old has posted impressive all-round numbers in midfield, averaging 3.2 shots, 2.2 key-passes, 2.2 dribbles and 2.2 tackles per game. Chelsea will want him back as soon as possible.

Early promise

While Abraham and Mount have earned the early-season headlines for their eye-catching performances, Tomori has looked promising at the back, quick to tackle and intercept danger.

"Tomori has pace, he has recovery pace, he has defended really well," Lampard said.

The long-range goal against Wolves will make many a highlight reel, but his good mate Abraham wasn't so convinced when he saw Tomori take aim.

"I was thinking 'don't shoot, Fikayo,'" Abraham said with a laugh, "but everyone is delighted for him. In training, he's been trying it every day and smashing windows, but it paid off – it was a great strike. We [Abraham, Mount and Tomori] were the last people off the pitch because we were discussing how we've all scored in the same game for Chelsea. We've dreamt of that since we were little boys and we made it happen."

On Sunday, that dream will be subjected to a reality check. SPORTS BUREAU, REUTERS & AFP

• **What is it?** It's a term in cricket used to denote a delivery bowled by a left-arm wrist-spinner that turns in to a right-handed batsman. For a visual guide, think of it as the mirror image of the leg-break bowled by a right-arm leg-spinner. The use of the term is problematic, however.

• **Why is it problematic?** Australian writer Andrew Wu argued in 2017 that it was racially offensive, explaining how, historically, it had been used to express contempt. Wisden dropped it in 2018, saying it was "no longer appropriate", and replaced it with 'slow left-arm wrist-spin'.

• **I think it's the age-old story,** fans like to see players that really feel the club. The young boys certainly help. But I don't want to make it all about the young players because there are older players who have come from all over the world, Jorginho and Kovacic... they take on different responsibilities and mentor them slightly. So we'll get that balance

Lampard's take

We are a young side, with players like Mason [Mount] and Tammy [Abraham] for sure. I also don't want to forget Fikayo [Tomori]. But also Andreas Christensen, Kurt Zouma are still a little bit young in years and have to grow up very quickly and have the personality and be leaders on the pitch



Tomori Abraham

The Milan derby is back in fashion

Saturday's main-event at the San Siro has generated a lot of buzz, thanks to the new arrivals at both clubs

The Derby della Madonnina, or the Milan derby, is one of world football's most iconic games because of its history, but it has changed character over the years, corresponding to the oscillating fortunes of the two clubs involved.

For long, it was a game that stopped the world, featuring as it did football's biggest stars.

Then it went through a phase when not too many fans outside Italy cared about it, with both clubs eclipsed by Europe's new elite. The fixture has enjoyed something of a revival in recent times, and the season's first Milan derby, this Saturday at San Siro, has generated a lot of buzz.

It helps that both clubs are under new management and have spent money during the transfer window in the attempt to end trophy droughts which extend back to 2011 when AC Milan won the Serie A and Inter won the Coppa Italia.

Inter chose Antonio Conte, who has won three Serie A titles with Juventus, one English Premier league title with Chelsea, and is famous for his intense, detailed work on the training pitch and the odd raging fit off it.

Milan, on the other hand, went for the mild-mannered, soft-spoken Marco Giampaolo, who has never managed better than ninth place with Sampdoria. But he is known as a details man himself, and has been tasked with getting Milan to play attractive football.

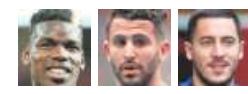
Inter is on top of the table, having signed Romelu Lukaku (club-record), Alexis Sanchez, and Diego Godin, who are the biggest names among the new arrivals.

AC Milan was active in the transfer market, as well, Giampaolo attempting to shape his squad with the deadline-day signing of Croatia star Ante Rebic after bringing Theo Hernandez and Ismael Bennacer, among others, to the club.

Conte's Inter has made a statement start to its Serie A campaign, winning three in three. AC Milan, which hosts the derby, will be keen to build on its last two wins. Despite a lot of talk about the club's return to a more expansive, passing style of football, Milan hasn't scored more than one goal in any of its games so far. If it wants to win its first league game against Inter since January 2016, that may not be enough. SPORTS BUREAU & REUTERS



Lukaku

WORD PLAY**Chinaman****ON THE BOX****STACKING UP**

■ **Premier League:** SAT: Leicester v Tottenham, 4.50 P.M., Manchester City v Watford, 7.20 P.M., Newcastle v Brighton, 9.50 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD.

SUN: Arsenal v Aston Villa, 8.45 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 1HD.

West Ham v Manchester United, 6.20 P.M.; Chelsea v Liverpool, 8.40 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.

■ **Bundesliga:** SAT: 6.45 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2. Werder Bremen v Leipzig, 9.45 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.

■ **Serie A:** SAT: Udinese v Brescia, 6.30 P.M., Juventus v Chievo Verona, 9.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD. SUN: AC Milan v Inter Milan, 12.15 A.M.; Lecce v Napoli, 6.30 P.M.; Atalanta v Fiorentina, 9.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD.

■ **Pro Kabaddi League:** SAT: Jaipur v Gujarat, 7.15 P.M., UP v Chennai, 8.30 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & HD. SUN: Mumbai v Gujarat, 7.15 P.M., Jaipur v Kolkata, 8.30 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 3.

■ **Singapore GP:** SAT: Qualifying, 6.20 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2HD. SUN: Main race, 5.35 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 1HD.

■ **Laver Cup:** SAT: 10.30 P.M.; DSPORT. SUN: 3.20 P.M.; DSPORT.

**ICC Test Rankings**

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	India	35	4,027	115
2	New Zealand	26	2,829	109
3	South Africa	27	2,917	108
4	England	42	4,366	104
5	Australia	33	3,270	99
6	Sri Lanka	40	3,795	95
7	Pakistan	27	2,263	84
8	West Indies	32	2,570	80
9	Bangladesh	23	1,413	61
10	Afghanistan	3	165	55

ODI Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	England	54	6,745	125
2	New Zealand	58	7,071	122
3	South Africa	43	4,837	112
4	Australia	50	5,543	111
5	South Africa	47	5,193	110
6	Pakistan	49	4,756	97
7	Bangladesh	46	3,963	86
8	Sri Lanka	54	4,425	82
9	West Indies	49	3,740	76
10	Afghanistan	40	2,359	59

T20I Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	Pakistan	26	7,365	283
2	England	16	4,253	266
3	South Africa	16	4,196	262
4	India	31	8,099	261
5	Australia	21	5,471	261
6	New Zealand	19	4,784	252
7	Afghanistan	16	3,849	241
8	Sri Lanka	21	4,808	229
9	West Indies	24	5,378	224
10	Bangladesh	16	3,525	220

Top Indians ▶**Men's Top Five**

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Novak Djokovic	32	9,865	16
2	Rafael Nadal	33	9,225	16
3	Roger Federer	38	7,130	17
4	Daniil Medvedev	23	5,235	25
5	Dominic Thiem	26	4,575	23

Prajnesh Gunneswaran

Rank 82 ▲ 3 spots

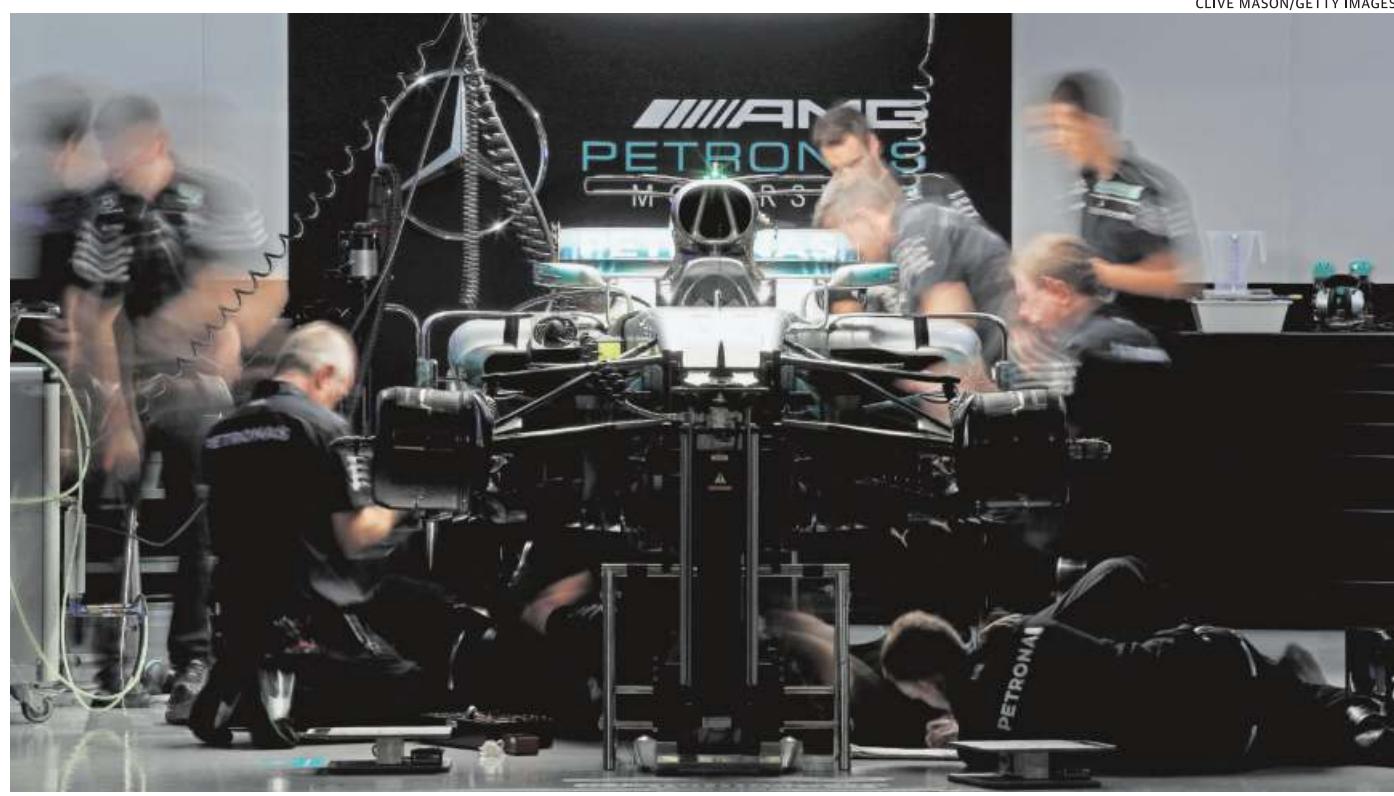
Women's Top Five

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Ashleigh Barty	23	6,501	16
2	Karolina Pliskova	27	6,125	21
3	Elina Svitolina	24	5,032	20
4	Naomi Osaka	21	4,846	17
5	Bianca Andreescu	19	4,835	16

Ankita Raina

Rank 191 ▲ 1 spot

Y.



The lifeblood of the modern Formula One engine

In the hybrid era, fluids — fuel, oil, lubricants, and coolants — have played a vital role in boosting performance. A look at how Mercedes and PETRONAS have got it right

S. DIPAK RAGAV

Formula One is a sport of thin margins, with crazy money and resources invested in chasing fractions of a second in performance — margins that can define races.

A lot of the in-season development focuses on aerodynamic modifications, improvements in suspensions and brake ducts, and periodic engine upgrades. But an area of development that has grown in importance since 2014, with the switch to small, turbo-powered hybrid units, is the fluid that forms the lifeblood of the power unit: the combination of fuel, oil, lubricants, and coolants.

During the Italian Grand Prix, Malaysian oil and gas company PETRONAS offered *The Hindu* access to its engineers and trackside laboratory to get a sense of how the fuel supplier and the engine manufacturer work together to improve performance. Mercedes, in partnership with PETRONAS, has won five drivers' and constructors' titles and is on course this season for a sixth double.

Everything is connected

As outlandish as it sounds, the nature of the fluid determines something as fundamental as the car's size. "Combustion produces a lot of heat and this has to be managed," says Andrea Dolfini, head of R&D, fluid technology solutions, PETRONAS.

"[If you go beyond a certain limit], you will melt alloy and burn plastic. You typically dis-

sipate heat through a radiator, but if there is a fluid which can efficiently dissipate heat, then the car can have a smaller radiator. This means a more compact car, reducing drag and boosting speed. So, you can see how a tiny thing in fluid can impact the whole design and engineering of other components of the car."

What's more, the excess heat is extracted and fed back into the car; the better the fluid is at recovering this heat energy, the more efficient the car. So, it's no surprise that engine manufacturers have a close relationship with their fuel supplier, right from the design stage, to maximise power and improve lap-times.

Synergy

Andy Cowell, MD of Mercedes AMG High Performance Powertrains (HPP), confirms that the power unit and its fuel "were designed hand-in-hand" — and there was continuous exchange between us, in order to optimise not just the composition of the fuel and its combustion characteristics, but also the physical characteristics of the engine to ensure they worked together in the best way possible."

The regulations mean that we find performance through thermal efficiency — essentially, converting as much of the chemical energy in the fuel as we can into useful work. We then also focused on minimising any energy losses in the system, through our design choices and the lubricant specification."

The fuel supplier also provides trackside support. During a race weekend, the only way to discover issues with the engine is to test the oil before and after each session.

"The engine is like the heart and oil is the blood," says Dolfini. "Like blood tests, we use the oil to look into the engine because you can't open the engine during the weekend. If there are some parts misassembled or there is excess wear or something wrong is getting into the engine, the oil can tell us and we can repair it."

Oil doctors

Just how does this work? The presence of metallic components in the oil corresponds to the wear of the part of the engine that is made of that metal.

"For example, let's suppose pistons are made of titanium," says Ahmad Nasri Mohd Shafie, PETRONAS trackside fluid engineer. "Whenever there is excessive wear of it, we will find high levels of titanium in the oil."

While wear is expected, given there are so many moving parts, excessive wear isn't so, if there

is a lot of something in the oil that shouldn't be there, alarm bells ring.

We've learnt how vital fluid is, but just what difference can a fuel supplier make in terms of increasing power and reducing lap-time?

"We wouldn't like to put a number to this — as it simply sets a target for our rivals to aim for!" says Cowell. "Generally, it is true to say in Formula One that there is no single 'magic bullet' — we find performance in small steps... and these add together. The fuel and lubricants are an integral part of this process."

Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff is more willing to put a number to it, without giving too much away. "[Real horsepower] does not come only from the fuel. It comes from the oil and the heat-rejection efficiency from the fluids [lubricants], which translates into horsepower. So we are talking about double-digit horsepower from oil and fuel." In a sport of small margins, that's plenty.

(The writer was in Monza recently at the invitation of PETRONAS)

high-downforce set-up to increase cornering speeds is the norm

But with the number of corners that have to be navigated — 23, the most in the season — mechanical grip alone doesn't suffice; the tyres have to work hard as well. To meet these demands, Pirelli has chosen its three softest, grippiest compounds

RACE NOTES

From Monza's 'temple of speed' to Singapore's twisty street layout, teams and drivers will be challenged with one of the biggest contrasts they face all season

Marina Bay is a stop-start, low-grip track, the second-slowest lap of the year after Monaco. So, a

- Although a night race, the heat and humidity make it tough on the cars mechanically; the track's characteristics offer very little ventilation and cooling
- The GP has a 100% safety-car record because of its narrow confines. So, teams will have to be flexible with their strategies to capitalise on any opportunities that arise during the night

Hamilton eyes a hat-trick in hazy Singapore

Twisty Marina Bay expected to favour Mercedes and Red Bull; threat of smog hangs over the night race

Lewis Hamilton may find his march towards a sixth Formula One title in Singapore this weekend clouded by haze from wildfires raging in neighbouring Indonesia.

The National Environment Agency is forecasting pollution at the "low end of the unhealthy range" for Sunday's showpiece night race after dense smog last weekend.

Formula One bosses are reported to have a contingency plan in place should the "highly changeable" air quality deteriorate, though the race weekend is still scheduled to go ahead as planned.

Hamilton, who leads teammate Valtteri Bottas by 63 points, has taken four of Mercedes' five victories at the demanding Marina Bay street circuit and is looking for a third consecutive triumph in a race that even without the threat of smog is traditionally draining because of heat and high humidity.

After Ferrari's consecutive victories on power-friendly layouts in Belgium and Italy in the two races after the summer break, Singapore is expected to favour Mercedes and Red Bull.



"On paper, we should be strong in Singapore — as should Red Bull," Wolff said. "But I have no doubt that Ferrari will have learned and will have a good package."

Red Bull has enjoyed 12 podium finishes in Singapore since 2008, including three victories, and will hope Max Verstappen can improve on his second-place finish from a year ago to stay ahead of Leclerc in their battle for third in the drivers' standings. Verstappen was strong in Friday's free practice, topping the first session and finishing behind Hamilton in the second. AFP

GAME THEORY

A parallel basketball world

Not as mainstream as the NBA, the FIBA Basketball World Cup is nevertheless one of the sport's two major world events, the Olympics being the other. Spain won its second title earlier this week, becoming the fifth team to win the tournament more than once. A look at the most successful teams and players in the history of the World Cup:

MOST WINS			
Team	Games played	Wins	Win rate
1 United States	149	122	81.9%
2 Brazil	133	81	60.9%
3 Soviet Union*	80	66	82.5%
4 Yugoslavia*	87	66	75.9%
5 Spain	90	61	67.8%
6 Argentina	103	58	56.3%
7 Italy	68	40	58.8%
8 Puerto Rico	90	37	41.1%
9 Australia	79	35	44.3%
10 Greece	56	33	58.9%

* THE TEAM IS DEFUNCT NOW



COMPILED BY NAresh SINGARAVELU

MEDAL COUNT				
Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Participation
1 USA	5	3	4	17
2 Yugoslavia*	5	3	2	12
3 Soviet Union*	3	3	2	9
4 Brazil	2	2	2	17
5 Spain	2	0	0	11

HIGHEST SCORING AVERAGE			
Player	Points	Games	Avg
1 Nikolaos Galis (GRE)	337	10	33.7
2 Shin Dong-pa (KOR)	261	8	32.6
3 Oscar Schmidt (BRA)	906	34	26.7

MOST POINTS SCORED IN A GAME			
Player	Points	Rival	Year of match
1 Jae Hur (KOR)	54	Egypt	1990
2 Nikolaos Galis (GRE)	53	Panama	1986
3 Oscar Schmidt (BRA)	52	Australia	1990
4 Jordi Villacampa Amorós (ESP)	48	Venezuela	1990
5 Dirk Nowitzki (GER)	47	Angola	2006

PICTURE THIS



Nifty net-work

Lacrosse is, simply put, a cross between basketball and hockey. Played over 60 minutes by two teams with sticks, which resemble tiny butterfly nets, and a ball, the sport doesn't indulge ties. At the

end of regulation time in a match, if the scores are level, the first team to score in the sudden-death overtime period wins.

A version of lacrosse originated in Canada as early as the 17th century, making it one of the oldest team sports in North America. It is also

the sport's biggest indoor tournament, held every four years.

Lacrosse is one of the few sports that have different rules for men and women: the men's version allows body contact while the women are only allowed stick-to-stick contact. The World Indoor Championships,

the sport's biggest indoor tournament, is held every four years. The fifth edition, underway in British Columbia, Canada, has a record 20 countries participating. Canada is the most successful team in the championships, having won gold in all four editions held.

Panghal on threshold of glory

Becomes the first Indian men's pugilist to enter final; Kaushik loses to Cruz



Packing a punch: Amit Panghal pipped Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov in a tight contest.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



The Panghal file

- Hails from Rohtak district of Haryana
- Employed with the Indian Army
- Current Asian Games and Asian championship gold medallist
- Defeated 49kg Olympic champion Dusmatov twice
- First Indian men's boxer to go beyond a World Championships bronze medal

BOXING WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

EKATERINBURG (RUSSIA)

Asian champion Amit Panghal (52kg) on Friday became the first Indian to make the final of the World men's boxing championship while Manish Kaushik (63kg) signed off with a bronze.

Second seed Panghal prevailed 3-2 against Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov in the semifinals, but Commonwealth Games silver-medalist Kaushik lost 5-0 to top-seeded Cuban Andy Gomez Cruz, a gold-medallist from

the previous edition besides being the Pan-American Games champion.

Final opponent

On Saturday, Panghal will take on Uzbekistan's Shakhobidin Zoirov, the reigning Olympic champion.

Panghal's rise has been nothing short of spectacular in Indian boxing ever since he claimed a 49kg category bronze in the 2017 Asian Championships.

India had never won more than one bronze in a single edition of the World Championships but Panghal and

Manish Kaushik (63kg) changed that by making the semifinals.

Past Indian medal-winners at the Worlds are Vijender Singh (2009), Vikas Krishan (2011), Shiva Thapa (2015) and Gaurav Bidhuri (2017).

"I am going to push hard for a gold," Panghal said later.

"I gave it my all, but I guess there are a few things lacking in my game, which I will try to improve on. I will work harder and deliver better results in coming tournaments," Kaushik said.



Manish Kaushik. ■ PTI

Praneeth exits

CHINA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHANGZHOU

B. Sai Praneeth lost 21-16, 6-21, 16-21 to World No. 9 Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in the quarterfinals to draw curtains on India's campaign at the China Open World Tour Super 1000 badminton tournament here on Friday.

Rawat stuns Advani, makes final

SPORTS BUREAU

MANDALAY (MYANMAR)

India's Laxman Rawat made the final of the World 6-Red championship surprising tournament favourite Pankaj Advani 5-4 in the semifinals on Friday. Rawat won 8-7, 40-2, 21-34, 24-28, 73 (73)-8, 47-14, 44-0, 27-39, 36-26.

He will take on Muhammad of Pakistan, who got past Thet Min Lin of Myanmar 5-4.

Amee in final

In the women's final, former Asian champion Amee Kamani will take on Nutcharat Wongharuthai of Thailand for the title. In the semifinal, Amee knocked out Ng On Yee of Hong Kong 4-1. Nutcharat got past Yulu Bai of China 4-3.

Titans, Pirates in thrilling tie



Slippery customer: Pardeep Narwal's speedy bursts and agility left fans roaring in delight. ■ COURTESY PKL

PKL

NANDAKUMAR MARAR

PUNE

Raiders of Pardeep Narwal's calibre and Siddharth Desai's size drive fans into raptures, but catchers blessed with craft and courage like Vishal Bharadwaj, Neeraj, Abozar Mighani, Hadi Ostorak can also be a handful.

This contest of offence and defence between Telugu Titans and Patna Pirates ended in a thrill-a-minute tie at 42-42 in the ProKabaddi League at the Balewadi indoor complex on Friday.

Narwal turned, leaped and tumbled in a zone of his own, taking out four, three and two defenders, driving Pirates on with 17 points (19 raids). Desai dominated in a

top-score of 12 points (15 raids).

Vishal (four) and Abozar (three) caught the Pirates' raiding sensation thrice in the second half to move Titans from deficit to equal terms at 40-all.

Hadi made his mark at vital stages (five).

The Pirates ace set the stage for a nail-biting second session with a sensational show in the rival half.

The results: Telugu Titans 42 (Siddharth Desai Rajnish 10, Vishal Bharadwaj 4, Abozar Mighani 3) tied with Patna Pirates 42 (Pardeep Narwal 17, Jan Kun Lee, Hadi Ostorak 5); Puneri Paltan 42 (Pankaj Mohite 17, Sagar Krishna 7, Surjeet Singh 6) bt Bengaluru Bulls 38 (Rohit Kumar 14, Pawan Sehwari 12).

Later, the court permitted the TNCA, represented by

TV PICKS

PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Rugby World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 10.30 a.m.
World wrestling: Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 4 p.m.
Laver Cup: DSport, 10.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



A golf crown for Kapil Dev

PUNE
Former India cricket captain Kapil Dev won the 60-64 age category title in the Pune leg of the AVT Champions golf tour on Friday. "Winning is always a good feeling. The AVT tour is a brilliant step towards helping us senior amateur golfers play more consistently now for a goal," said Kapil Dev, who returned a gross of 150 over 36 holes. PTI

Indian spikers lose to Chinese Taipei

TEHRAN
India lost to Chinese Taipei 25-20, 22-25, 11-25, 16-25 in the in the 20th Asian senior men's volleyball championship held here. India will play Pakistan for the 7-8 positions on Saturday.

Vikram enters semifinals

LONDON (CANADA)
India's Vikram Malhotra fought his way into the semifinals of the Nash Cup 2019, a PSA challenger squash event here on Thursday with a hard fought 11-6, 6-11, 11-8, 9-11, 11-3 win over Reiko Peter of Switzerland.

India thrashes Bahrain

TASHKENT
India continued its impressive show in the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers by thrashing Bahrain 5-0 here on Friday. India now moves on to six points in the group with 10 goals to its kitty. **The result:** India 5 (Sridhar 2, Shubho Paul 2, Mohamed Hasan Jaafar-og) bt Bahrain 0. PTI

Mayank, Shivam guide Khalsa College to victory

NEW DELHI
Mayank Bansal (79 not out) and Shivam Yadav (53 not out) helped Khalsa College defeat Shivaji College by 10 wickets in the Dweepender Singh Bola memorial inter-collegiate cricket tournament here. Mayank was named the Man-of-the-Match. **The scores:** Shivaji College 140 in 44.3 overs (Aman Jainwal 65, Karan Sharma three for eight) lost to Khalsa College 141 for no loss in 24.5 overs (Mayank Bansal 79 n.o., Shivam Yadav 53 n.o.).

Ishaque Eqbal claims title

LUDHIANA
Second seed Ishaque Eqbal overcame a sluggish start to beat Suraj Prabodh 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the ₹250,000 AITA men's ranking tennis tournament at the Harvest Tennis Academy in Jassowal on Friday. The Director of Harvest Campus, Ms. Harshita Nagar, and the head coach Strahinja Jovanovic of Serbia, gave away the prizes. **The results (final):** Ishaque Eqbal bt Suraj Prabodh 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Matsushima stars in Japan's victory

TOKYO
Kotaro Matsushima scored a sizzling hat-trick as hosts Japan recovered from a torrid start to beat Russia 30-10 in the Rugby World Cup opener on Friday. AFP

Man Utd. and Arsenal claim wins

PARI
Last season's runner-up Arsenal romped to an impressive 3-0 victory at Eintracht Frankfurt in its Europa League opener on Thursday as Mason Greenwood spared Manchester United's blushes. **Important results:** Group A: Qarabag 0 lost to Sevilla 3 (Hernandez 62, Munir 78, Torres 85). **Group F:** Eintracht Frankfurt 0 lost to Arsenal 3 (Willock 38, Saka 85, Aubameyang 88). **Group L:** Manchester United 1 (Greenwood 73) bt Astana 0. AFP

Gill's title hunt may well begin here

It is expected to be a face-off between him and Team Champions' Dean Mascarenhas

MOTORSPORTS

RAYAN ROZARIO
JODHPUR

After mastering most of the stages in the WRC in Marmaris (Turkey) last week, India's Gaurav Gill (co-driver Musa Sherif) is back to deliver his best in the Maxperience Rally, the third round of the Champions Yacht Club FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship for cars, that begins here on Saturday.

Quite a few expect a face-off between Gill (Team Mahindra Adventure) and Team Champions' Dean Mascarenhas (Shrutha Padival) the next two days. That's not the truth as Gill is a champion driver and has proved that to a great measure for many years now.

Miles away

"There's not going to be any sort of face-off. Gill is a World



Setting the pace: Gill in action during the free practice session at Jodhpur on Friday.

* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rally driver and am miles away to reach there. But, I am sure that I can get there on time, hopefully, with his guidance and experience," Dean told *The Hindu* here on Friday.

"He has been helping me and am also looking at learning the way he goes about in

his academy. From there, I should be able to do something better," he added.

Dean currently leads the INRC2 class and is second overall. "But there are four more rallies to go from here and there's lot more that can add or change," he said.

The rally, powered by

MRF, is expected to bring the best out of the participants as it boasts of some super-fast sweeping roads. And the hungry-looking Gill may well begin his title hunt in this Sun city.

"I am fresh off my WRC round but this is a completely different car that requires

different inputs of driving and using the package that we have – the gearbox, the differentials and the engine.

I need to detune myself to a different style of driving. These engines are not as fast as those cars and I need to quickly get used to these speeds," said Gill.

New package

"We have not had the best rounds so far, but this round we have a completely new package, with the engine, the tune and the tyres, so I am hoping to finish on top," he added.

Race Concepts Younis Ilyas (Harish Gowda) of Kochi is the other driver who will be eager to give the two a run for their money.

The Rally of Jodhpur, run on gravel, will cover about 300kms which includes 125kms of Special Stages.

Rupinder back in India squad

Lalit returns from injury for Belgium tour

HOCKEY

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

Rupinder Pal Singh made a long-delayed return to national duty after being named in the Indian hockey side for the upcoming Belgium tour on Friday.

The experienced defender and drag-flicker, whose last major outing was the 2018 Asian Games before being relegated to the sidelines, was included in the 20-member squad for the five-match series, the last outing for the team before the Olympic Qualifiers in November.

In between, he was tested on the Australia tour in May – the first assignment for chief coach Graham Reid – and scored twice in five games before being ignored again.

The 28-year old, who looked to be at crossroads in his career since being ignored in the overhaul of the Indian team after the Asiad disappointment, would be among the senior-most players on the tour and would be attempting to impress the team management enough for a shot at the Qualifiers.

"All the players complement each other very well and we are hoping the team continues its good form."

"We are delighted to have Lalit Upadhyay back as he will play a vital role in the forward line."

"It's fantastic to have Rupinder back as well."

"We are still looking to fine-tune a few aspects of our game before we leave for Belgium," chief coach Graham



Operation resurrection: Drag-flicker Rupinder Pal Singh will attempt to make the team for the Olympic Qualifiers. *AFP

long hiatus would be for ward Lalit Upadhyay, who last played during the World Cup in December 2018 before picking up a back strain that sidelined him for more than eight months.

Midfielder Chinglenara Singh, however, continues to recover from an ankle injury.

"We have chosen a strong experienced group in what will be quite a full match schedule. Besides the five games, there will also be a full-training day with the Dutch team and it is perfect preparation for the Qualifiers."

The squad: Goalkeepers: P.R. Sreejesh, Krishan Pathak; Defenders: Harmanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Birendra Lakra, Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Gurinder Singh, Kohjait Singh, Rupinder Pal Singh; Midfielders: Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Nilakanta Sharma; Forwards: Mandeep Singh, SV Sunil, Lalit Upadhyay, Ramandeep Singh, Simranjeet Singh, Akashdeep Singh.

Reid said.

FULL SCHEDULE

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Dhamne-Majumder win



Pari Singh and Shruti Ahlawat. * SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The all-round ability and calm demeanour proved decisive as third seeds Manas Dhamne and Arunava Majumder won the boys' doubles title, beating Jasmee Dahan and Rushil Khosla 6-3, 5-7, [10-7] in the doubles quarterfinals of the \$1,248,665 ATP tennis here.

The results: **\$1,248,665 ATP, St. Petersburg: Doubles (quarterfinals):** Igor Zelenay (Svk) & Divij Sharai vs Roberto Carballes Baena (Esp) & Andres Molteni (Arg) 7-5, 5-7, [10-7].

\$162,480 Challenger, Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei: Doubles (quarterfinals): Cheng-Peng Hsieh & Tung-Sung Yang (Tpe) bt Saketh Myneni & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 6-2, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Nanchang, China: Quarterfinals: Ryota Tanuma (Jpn) bt Kaza Vinayak Sharma 6-4, 6-1.

Doubles (semifinals): Luca Castelnovo (Sui) & Anirudh Chandrasekar (Ind) bt Yeong Mo & Weibo-wen Zou (Chn) 6-4, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Cairo: Doubles (semifinals): Roman Blokhin (Rus) & Zura Tkmaladze (Geo) bt Muzammil Murtaza (Pak) & Dhruv Sunish 6-2, 6-2, [10-8].

\$15,000 ITF men, Antalya: Doubles (semifinals): Kelsey Stevenson (Can) & Adil Kalyanpur bt Denis Kloko (Rus) & Vitaliy Sachko (Ukr) 6-2, 4-6, [10-7].

\$15,000 ITF women, Anning, China: Doubles (semifinals): Ayaka Okuno (Jpn) & Holly Verner (Us) bt Oleksandra Oliynykova (Cro) & Sowjanya Bavissetti 6-4, 2-6, [10-7].

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Zelenay & Divij in semis

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
ST. PETERSBURG

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE J&K

Market Intervention Scheme for procurement of Apple

Department of Horticulture J&K Government in collaboration with Government of India have launched Market Intervention Scheme for procurement of Apples from fruit growers of J&K. The scheme was launched by Shri Satya Pal Malik, Hon'ble Governor, J&K on 12th of September, 2019 at Horticulture Complex Rajbagh Srinagar.

Salient Features of Scheme;

- Remunerative Prices.
- Four Procurement Centres Anantnag (Batengoo); Shopian; Srinagar (Parimpora); Sopore.
- The procurement shall be made strictly from genuine Apple growers.
- Payment through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) within three days.
- SNA/NAFED shall make arrangement for transportation of Apples from procurement centres onwards.
- Grade-wise Apples are accepted in card board/wooden boxes at procurement Centres.

Procurement Rate (Rs./Kg) of Apples under MIS

S.No.	Grade	Delicious			American	Maharaji
		Cardboard grass packing	Cardboard tray packing	Wood Packing	Cardboard grass packing	Cardboard grass packing
1	A	52.00	53.00	54.00	48.00	40.00
2	B	36.00	37.00	38.00	32.00	25.00
3	C	15.75	-	-	18.00	19.00

- The rates are inclusive of packaging, loading and transportation upto procurement centres.
- Fruit Growers shall make advance registration at procurement centres.

Issued by: **Government of Jammu and Kashmir**